

Magnitude of the Richter Scale Activity – Richter Scale Handout

Richter Scale

Level	x Level 1
1	-
2	10 x level 1
3	100 x level 1
4	1,000 x level 1
5	10,000 x level 1
6	100,000 x level 1
7	1,000,000 x level 1
8	10,000,000 x level 1
9	100,000,000 x level 1

Frequency of Earthquakes at Different Magnitudes

Richter Scale Level	Number of Earthquakes Per Year	Description of Richter Scale Level
1-2	800,000	Detected by instruments
3-4	100,000	Minor damage
5-6	200	Buildings crack, objects fall from shelves
7-8	10	Buildings fall, major damage

Mercalli Scale

Level	Earthquake Impact Description
I	People cannot feel it, but it can be recorded.
II	People lying down outside may feel it.
III	People indoors feel it. Parked cars rock.
IV	Pictures and lamps swing. Dishes rattle.
V	Windows and dishes break. People sleeping wake up.
VI	Furniture moves. Chimneys crack.
VII	Poorly built homes are damaged. Church bells ring. Waves on ponds.
VIII	Many buildings are damaged. Furniture is overturned.
IX	Most buildings are damaged. Underground pipes can break.
X	Some bridges are destroyed. Railroad tracks bend. There are landslides.
XI	Very few buildings survive. Underground pipes are damaged.
XII	There is total devastation.