West Coast quake warning system now operational, with limits

PASADENA, (AP) — Automated alerts from the fledgling West Coast earthquake warning system are ready to be used broadly by businesses, utilities, schools and other entities but not for mass public notification, officials Wednesday.

"We're making a large change from a production prototype in pilot mode to an open-for-business operational mode," Doug Given, earthquake early warning coordinator for the U.S. Geological Survey, told a press conference at the California Institute of Technology.

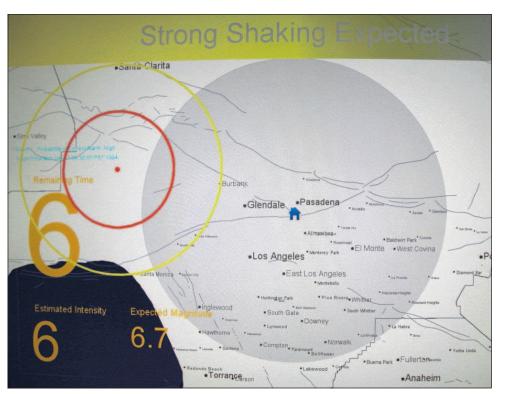
The system being built for California, Oregon and Washington detects that an earthquake is occurring, quickly analyzes the data and sends out alerts that may give warnings of several seconds to a minute before strong shaking arrives at locations away from the epicenter.

That can be enough time to automatically slow trains, stop industrial processes, start backup generators, pause a surgery or send students scrambling for protection under desks and table.

Pilot programs involving select users have been underway for several years.

"The system is not yet finished, it's not complete, there is a lot of work to be done, however there is a lot of capability in the system as it exists today to the point it can definitely be used," Given said.

The sensor network



AP Photo/Reed Saxon, File

This Sept. 13, 2011 file photo shows a computer replication of the 6.7 magnitude Northridge Earthquake of 1994 during a demonstration of an early earthquake warning system at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, Calif.

plete and funding has been secured to complete it in California in the next two years and get two-thirds of the way built out in the Pacific Northwest, he said.

Another key development occurred Sept. 28 when a new generation of ShakeAlert software was deployed.

Given said among its important improvements is reduction of false and missed alerts. False alerts typically have occurred when a large quake elsewhere in the world is detected by a sensor and is mistaken for a local

"The system performs is about 50 percent com- now much better than it did in the past to the point where it is much more reliable," he said.

Officials now want to open ShakeAlert to a wide array of applications and are encouraging potential users to contact the USGS.

That doesn't yet include mass public notifications for several reasons, including the fact that current cellphone technology is too slow for timely delivery of notifications.

"Most folks expect to get the alerts on their phone, and that is of course ... the preferred way that we'd like to get it into everybody's hands," Given said. "Unfortunately the technology that is built into your phone to send you notifications was not designed with earthquake early warning in mind."

Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., who has championed funding of the system, said it will also be important to make sure people know what the alerts mean, what to do when they get them, what not to do and to understand there may be false alarms.

"The education component is going to be very, very important, but this is a wonderful milestone," he said. "We can now see the end, I hope, in two or three years where the system is fully built out and funded and in operation."

BRIEFLY

Trump asks Turkey for audio, video evidence on Khashoggi

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. has asked Turkey for a recording that could reveal gruesome details of what happened to Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, President Donald Trump said Wednesday. But he's not confirming there is any such recording, as reported by Turkish media, and he's continuing to urge patience while Saudi Arabia says it's

Asked about a recording described by the Turkish newspaper Yeni Safak, Trump said, "We've asked for it, if it exists." At another point, he said, "I'm not sure yet that it exists."

Trump, who threatened punishment for Saudi Arabia when Khashoggi's disappearance first came to light two weeks ago, has repeatedly noted Saudi leaders' denials since then and insisted the U.S. must know the facts before taking action.

But when asked if he was "giving cover" to the Saudi leaders, he said Wednesday that he was not.

"No, not at all," he declared.

Turkish crime-scene investigators searched the home of the Saudi consul general in Istanbul on Wednesday in the disappearance of Khashoggi, and a pro-government newspaper published a gruesome account of the journalist's alleged

As Saudi Arabia's green national flag flapped overhead, forensics teams entered the residence, only 1.2 miles from the consulate where Khashoggi vanished Oct. 2 while trying to pick up paperwork to get married. It was the second-such extraordinary search of a site considered under international law to be sovereign Saudi territory after investigators spent hours in the consulate earlier this week.

The account published in the Yeni Safak newspaper alleged that Saudi officials cut off Khashoggi's fingers and then decapitated him at the consulate as his fiancée waited

Student gunman kills 19, wounds 50 at school in Crimea

MOSCOW (AP) — An 18-year-old student strode into his vocational school in Crimea, a hoodie covering his blond hair, then pulled out a shotgun and opened fire on Wednesday, killing 19 students and wounding more than 50 others before killing himself.

It wasn't clear what prompted Vladislav Roslyakov, described as a shy loner, to go on the rampage. A security camera image carried by Russian media showed him calmly walking down the stairs of the school in the Black Sea city of Kerch, the shotgun in his gloved hand.

"He was walking around and shooting students and teachers in cold blood," said Sergei Aksyonov, the regional leader

Officials said the fourth-year student killed himself in the library of the Kerch Polytechnic College after the attack. His mother, a nurse, was helping to treat victims at a local hospital after the shootings, unaware yet that her son was accused of the rampage and was already dead.

Such school shootings are rare, and Wednesday's attack was by far the worst by a disgruntled student in Russia, which annexed the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine in 2014. The bloodbath raised questions about school security in the country; the Kerch Polytechnic College had only a front desk with no security guards.

"We're making a large change from a production prototype in pilot mode to an open-for-business operational mode"

- Doug Given, earthquake early warning coordinator for the U.S. Geological Survey

THURSDAY AFTERNOON & EVENING OCTOBER 18, 2018 12 PM | 12:30 | 1 PM | 1:30 | 2 PM | 2:30 3 PM 3:30 4 PM 10 PM | 10:30 | 11 PM | 11:30 NFL Pre- :20 NFL Football Denver Broncos at Arizona Cardinals Site: University The People's 2 Broke OutSpace Wendy Williams Truth Truth People's Court PreGame: 20 NFL Football Denver Broncos at Arizona Cardinals (L) Page Six Judge News Colbert Edition mpsons Bang (N) The Talk (N) **19** Local 6 B & B The 700 Club Dr. Phil Sheldon | Mom (N) | Murphy | S.W.A.T. (N) Colbert KOIN News (N News Extra ET (N) **BBang** News Jeop-Super-TMZ Paid Days of Our Lives | The Wendy Ellen DeGeneres News News News Family Wheel GoodP-Law&Order: SVU 6 Days of Our Lives | The Dr. Oz Show News Cassidy InsEd. 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