

# ‘I heard the roar’: 6.5 earthquake hits Idaho

Quake centered 73 miles northeast of Meridian

By REBECCA BOONE  
Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — An earthquake struck north of Boise on Tuesday evening, with people across a large area reporting shaking.

The U.S. Geological Survey reports the magnitude 6.5 temblor struck just before 6 p.m. It was centered 73 miles northeast of Meridian, near the rural mountain town of Stanley. There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries.

More than 2 million people live in the region that could feel the Idaho quake, according to the USGS, with reports of shaking coming in from as far away as Helena, Montana, and Salt Lake City, Utah.

Marcus Smith, an emergency room health unit coordinator at St. Luke’s Wood River Medical Center, said the hospital, about 65 miles south of the epicenter, shook but the quake didn’t interfere with the treatment of any patients. The hospital in Blaine County is on the front line of Idaho’s coronavirus outbreak, in a region with the nation’s highest per-capita rates of known COVID-19 cases outside of New York City and its surrounding counties.

“It felt like a wave going through the ground, so I knew right away what it was. It just felt like waves



In a photo provided by Israel Bravo, rocks fall from the north side of the Snake River Canyon during an earthquake on Tuesday near Twin Falls, Idaho. A large earthquake struck north of Boise on Tuesday evening, with people across a large area reporting shaking.

going through the ground,” he said.

The earthquake added stress during an already tense time for the region, but Smith said everything seemed fine, for now. “Until the next one, I guess,” Smith said. “I mean, that’s what we do. We’re all good.”

Brett Woolley, the owner of

Bridge Street Grill in Stanley, said he heard the earthquake coming before he felt it hit.

“I heard the roar, and at first it sounded like the wind but then the roar was tremendous,” Woolley said about 10 minutes after the earthquake. “The whole house was rattling, and I started to panic. I’m

sitting here perfectly still and the water next to me is still vibrating.”

Dr. Lucy Jones, a seismologist at Caltech and the founder of the Dr. Lucy Jones Center for Science and Seismology, said the Idaho region has an earthquake of about this size every 30 or 40 years. The most recent one, a magnitude 7.0 earth-

quake near Borah Peak in 1983, killed two children in Challis and caused an estimated \$12.5 million in property damage across Challis and Mackay.

That quake was along what scientists call a “normal fault,” with the quake causing vertical movement, she said. Tuesday’s quake appeared to be on an unmapped “strike-slip fault,” causing mostly horizontal movement along the fault line.

“This is one that wasn’t obvious enough to be mapped before now,” Jones said.

Unmapped faults of this size are rarer in highly populated areas like California, she said, but in sparsely populated and remote regions like Central Idaho they’re less likely to cause damage and less likely to be a focus of geologists and seismologists.

Residents in the region will likely continue to feel aftershocks, she said. The area had already recorded five aftershocks within the first hours after the 6.5 earthquake.

“An aftershock is just an earthquake, but it happens at a time that doesn’t surprise us,” she said. “They do every bit as much damage.”

People in an earthquake should drop to the floor and cover their heads with their arms, she said.

“Get to the floor before the earthquake throws you there, and if you have a table nearby, get under it and hold onto it,” Jones said. “Running in an earthquake is incredibly dangerous — people die from running in an earthquake. Just get down and try to cover.”

Forecast for Pendleton Area

TODAY

Cool with periods of sun

FRIDAY

Cool with clouds and sun

SATURDAY

Cloudy

SUNDAY

Mostly cloudy with a shower

MONDAY

Rather cloudy; windy in the p.m.

| PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 51°                            | 31° | 52° | 31° | 54° | 33° | 54° | 36° | 56° | 32° |
| HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 58°                            | 34° | 57° | 29° | 59° | 36° | 60° | 36° | 62° | 38° |

OREGON FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP. HIGH 44° LOW 33°

Yesterday 44° 33°

Normals 58° 38°

Records 76° (1921) 18° (1936)

PRECIPITATION 24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.02"

Month to date 0.02"

Normal month to date 0.04"

Year to date 4.97"

Last year to date 6.08"

Normal year to date 4.04"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP. HIGH 50° LOW 36°

Yesterday 50° 36°

Normals 62° 37°

Records 78° (2000) 16° (2008)

PRECIPITATION 24 hours ending 3 p.m. Trace

Month to date Trace

Normal month to date 0.02"

Year to date 0.48"

Last year to date 3.59"

Normal year to date 3.16"

WINDS (in mph)

Today Fri.

Boardman W 6-12 WSW 10-20

Pendleton W 7-14 W 8-16

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today 6:33 a.m.

Sunset tonight 7:25 p.m.

Moonrise today 12:45 p.m.

Moonset today 3:44 a.m.

Full Last New First

Apr 7 Apr 14 Apr 22 Apr 30

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)

High 92° in Zapata, Texas Low -13° in Stanley, Idaho

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

-10s -0s 0s 10s 20s 30s 40s 50s 60s 70s 80s 90s 100s 110s

showers t-storms rain flurries snow ice cold front warm front stationary front high low

## Small tornado touches down in Southeastern Washington

Tri-City Herald

minutes, it said.

Shawn Alton was taking pictures of the dramatic spring cloud formations against a blue sky above the Tri-Cities on Tuesday afternoon.

About 1 p.m. she posted a photo of the clouds, saying, “I love spring weather!”

About an hour and a half later she just happened to look up and see the tornado and captured some video of the dark funnel.

Some jokesters on social media were calling it the coronado, because people spotted it as they were staying home in response to the new coronavirus pandemic.

People in Benton City reported a hail storm and strong winds between 3

## Walla Walla food banks to get National Guard help

WALLA WALLA, Wash. — The state of Washington will deploy its National Guard to Walla Walla County to ensure critical food banks remain stocked and operational, according to a county Emergency Management Department release on Wednesday.

The deployment is scheduled to begin Thursday and last through the end of April.

They will take the place of volunteers, who are following the governor’s “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” directive and provide extra assistance needed during this critical time.

“We ask that you welcome them in the community as they package and distribute meals at local food bank operations,” Liz Jessee, the county Emergency Management director, said in the release.

The guardsmen will not be conducting any law enforcement activities, the Walla Walla County Sheriff’s Office released in a statement on Wednesday. Nor are they bringing any unknown illness with them, the release stated.

“In fact, every member will be medically screened prior to their duty at a food bank, or related task, making their efforts very high reward and low risk to us,”

according to the sheriff’s office release.

“The activation of National Guard here is only to help our community to be better equipped and nothing else.”

Further details on how many will be deployed and where they will operate will be released by the governor’s office later this week.

## Oregon State Penitentiary employee diagnosed with coronavirus

SALEM — The Oregon Department of Corrections on Wednesday announced an employee at the Oregon State Penitentiary has tested positive for coronavirus.

The department notified all of its staff about the diagnosis via email on Wednesday morning.

It has not released the employee’s job role, gender, age or any other identifying information due to privacy concerns.

Though, the department said it is working with the Oregon Health Authority to include the employee in the coronavirus demographic information OHA releases to the public.

ODOC said it has notified via letter employees who have come in close contact with the person.

— Associated Press

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