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LOCAL // TEXAS

Strong earthquake in West Texas may have been felt in San Antonio

Timothy Fanning, San Antonio Express-News

Nov. 16, 2022

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A magnitude 5.3 earthquake was reported near the town of Mentone in West Texas on Wednesday afternoon, according to the United States Geological Survey.

United States Geological Survey

If you felt the ground moving on Wednesday afternoon in San Antonio, you're not alone.

Earthquake monitoring sites detected a quake in West Texas, with the U.S. Geological Survey reporting a 5.3 magnitude quake at a depth of about 6 miles near the town of Mentone, which is about 77 miles west of Odessa.

The earthquake struck around 3:30 p.m. near the Reeves and Vulsesser county lines.

Multiple people have reported feeling the earthquake as far east as San Antonio and as far north as Dallas. The earthquake was also felt elsewhere in West Texas and in

Southern New Mexico, the National Weather Service in [El Paso tweeted](#).

Mario Muniz, Alamo Colleges District spokesperson, said San Antonio College alerted faculty, staff and students to avoid the Chance Academic Center, the Moody Center and the Scobee Planetarium until further notice. Muniz said there is no information on whether there is damage.

The U.S. Geological Survey has reported over 200 responses on its website from people who have felt the earthquake and officially reported it.

There have been 20 earthquakes reported in Texas this year, according to the Bureau of Economic Geology at the University of Texas at Austin. The strongest earthquake was a magnitude 4.0 reported in Reeves County on April 27.

The earthquake reported Wednesday is the third strongest in Texas history, according to [Earthquaketrack.com](#).

Over 200 earthquakes of 3.0 magnitude or greater have hit Texas in 2021, more than double the 98 recorded in 2020, according to a [Texas Tribune](#).

The Tribune reported that the "record-setting seismic activity is largely concentrated in West Texas' Permian Basin, the most productive oil and gas region in the state. The website said studies show the spike is "almost certainly a consequence of disposing huge quantities of contaminated, salty water deep underground – a common practice by oil companies at the end of the hydraulic fracturing process that can awaken dormant fault lines."

Just felt my building shake. Earthquake in San Antonio??? Anyone else feel that?

— Eloy Tijerina (@soy_elay) November 16, 2022

never experienced an earthquake in San Antonio before but apparently anyone who was on floors 2-higher felt it LOL

— alberto torres (@albertomtiv) November 16, 2022

I worked in a high rise near downtown San Antonio and we felt a little of that earthquake that happened out in west Texas a while ago

— noway (@YoSoyNoWay) November 16, 2022

Anyone else in San Antonio just feel the earthquake ?... Texas is wild rn cold and earthquake

— | Caityxox (@caityxox) November 16, 2022

Staff writer Danya Perez contributed to the story.

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Written By

Timothy Fanning

Timothy Fanning is a digital reporter for the San Antonio Express-News.

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BY AMBER ELLIOTT

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