



NEWS RELEASE

DATE/TIME	08 May 2010 12:11 PM
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REF STATE INCIDENT #10-1318
USGS EVENT #UW05081157

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

MAGNITUDE 2.9 EARTHQUAKE NEAR ROYAL CITY

MOSES LAKE, WASH. — A magnitude 2.9 earthquake occurred at 4:57 AM (PDT) today, Saturday May 08, 2010 according to the U.S. Geologic Survey.

The epicenter was located five miles south-southwest of Royal City in the 7400 block of Lower Crab Creek Rd. The earthquake was considered shallow at a depth of 1.9 miles, and the magnitude of the earthquake was quite small. There were no immediate reports of any damage.

Citizens are asked that if they felt they earthquake to report it to the U.S. Geologic Survey online at <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/dyfi/> and reference event number UW05081157.

Reports of any earthquake damage should be reported to the Grant County Department of Emergency Management at 509-762-1462 weekdays or 509-762-1160 on weekends or after business hours.

Earthquakes with magnitude of about 2.0 or less are usually called microearthquakes; they are not commonly felt by people and are generally recorded only on local seismographs. Events with magnitudes of about 4.5 or greater are strong enough to be recorded by sensitive seismographs all over the world.

On the Richter Scale, magnitude is expressed in whole numbers and decimal fractions. For example, a magnitude 5.3 might be computed for a moderate earthquake, and a strong earthquake might be rated as magnitude 6.3. Because of the logarithmic basis of the scale, each whole number increase in magnitude represents a tenfold increase in measured amplitude; as an estimate of energy, each whole number step in the magnitude scale corresponds to the release of about 31 times more energy than the amount associated with the preceding whole number value.

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