

## **P-104**

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### **Earthquake Intensity Reporting**

#### **P-104.1 PURPOSE & SCOPE**

To establish a standard for reporting, gathering and disseminating the intensity of seismic activity allowing a rapid geographic assessment of damage.

This policy pertains to notification and dissemination of information known to Public Safety Communications regarding a local seismic event. Once notification has occurred, strategies used to manage these events are the discretion of the local agency and/or Fire Mutual Aid Coordinator, including when to stand down.

#### **P-104.2 POLICY**

It is the policy of the San Mateo County Fire Chiefs that PSC and operational Battalion Chiefs on duty during a seismic event will follow the procedures outlined in this policy for reporting earthquake events and intensity.

#### **P-104.3 REFERENCES**

N/A

#### **P-104.4 PROCEDURES**

##### **1. Notification criteria**

- a. PSC shall initiate the Earthquake Intensity Reporting process when:
  - i. PSC experiences significant shaking due to presumed earthquake activity.
  - ii. A Chief Officer notifies PSC that his/her location has experienced an earthquake.
  - iii. PSC receives a report of a magnitude 4.0 or greater seismic event in the San Francisco Bay Area.

##### **2. Incident entry and broadcast**

- a. Once notified of a seismic event, PSC shall:
  - i. Create a single CAD entry.

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- ii. Ring down all stations and broadcast pertinent details including preliminary earthquake magnitude, location, etc. and request an intensity rating from all Battalion Chiefs.

**3. Information collection and dissemination**

- a. Battalion Chiefs shall report damage to structures using the Earthquake Intensity Rating Level Scale for their immediate location to PSC within 5 minutes via radio (or telephone if radio communications is unavailable) to their Zone Dispatcher.

Level 0	Nothing felt
Level 1	Earthquake felt, no damage
Level 2	Items thrown from shelves, windows broken
Level 3	Block walls down
Level 4	Structures shifted off foundations
Level 5	Structural collapse

- b. PSC Dispatchers shall append the CAD incident with the Earthquake Intensity Rating as reported by each Battalion Chief.
- c. PSC will, upon receiving an Earthquake Intensity Report from all Battalions but no longer than 30 minutes, page the results to all logged on Fire personnel and equipment.