



PRESS RELEASE

City of La Habra
201 E. La Habra Blvd
La Habra, CA 90631
(562) 383-4000

April 1, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE #09-2014

Subject: City Response to Earthquake

Contact: City Manager's Office (562) 383-4010
Rob Ferrier, Assistant to the City Manager

A 5.1 magnitude earthquake centered approximately 1 mile southeast of La Habra City Hall occurred at 9:09 p.m. on Friday, March 28th. The event was felt widely throughout Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura Counties. The quake was preceded by a smaller foreshock (magnitude 3.6) at 8:03 p.m. Scores of aftershocks have followed, the largest of which was a magnitude 4.1 earthquake that occurred at 2:32 p.m. on Saturday, March 29th.

None of the quakes caused any loss of life nor did they cause any serious personal injuries that we are aware of. Although many buildings in La Habra have suffered superficial damage (façade and/or plaster cracks), no buildings that staff have inspected have suffered significant enough damage to have been "red-tagged" (i.e. damaged to the point that they are no longer safe for occupancy). There were no structural fires as a result of the earthquake and any temporary disruptions in gas, electricity or water service were restored shortly after the main earthquake.

City Hall experienced no structural damage, though many ceiling tiles and light fixtures fell as a result of the shaking. Repairs have been made and City Hall was open for business on Monday. A number of roof tiles at the Children's Museum at La Habra experienced damage. City staff and roofing contractors are working on repairs.

The quake did cause two minor water main breaks (one in the 2000 block of Elmcroft Circle and another in the 300 block of Teakwood Avenue), but City work crews and an emergency repair contractor were on scene shortly after the quake and the damage was repaired by Saturday morning. The quake also temporarily caused traffic signals to go dark at multiple intersections, but work crews repaired the damage while the La Habra Police Department provided traffic control. All lights were functional within 24 hours of the main earthquake.

Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACFD) units assigned to La Habra responded to numerous calls, though they were mostly service calls responding to reports of broken fire

sprinklers, leaking water heaters, and anxiety brought on by the initial quake and aftershocks. In addition, LACFD deployed an additional strike team to help address the increase in calls.

The Red Cross opened a temporary shelter at the La Habra Community Center at approximately 10:30 p.m. on Friday evening to provide assistance to those potentially displaced by the quake. Approximately 40 people utilized the shelter, but they were able to return to their residences Saturday morning, after which the shelter was closed.

Several businesses and other buildings throughout the City suffered broken windows, but it appears damaged windows have been replaced or boarded awaiting repair and most, if not all, affected locations are open for business.

Staff from the Building and Safety Division of the Community Development Department is continuing to survey damage throughout the community and estimates that 30-50 homes have chimneys that have suffered varying degrees of damage. Additionally, several block walls have suffered differing degrees of damage that will require repair. The public is encouraged to contact the City's building department at (562) 383-4116 to report significant damage or to request assistance to inspect potential damage. Additionally, staff is available to assist residents and business owners to determine the extent of repairs that will be necessary.

La Habra Mayor Tom Beamish said, "The earthquake and the aftershocks that followed certainly got everyone's attention, but I'm pleased with our response. In addition to our first responders from the La Habra Police Department and LACFD, staff members from our Community Development, Community Services, and Public Works Departments were on scene shortly after the earthquake, surveying the community for damage and offering help to those in need. We will continue to assess the damage and remain ready to assist residents and businesses in need."

The City will release more information once the damage assessment has been complete. For more information, please contact Assistant to the City Manager Rob Ferrier at 562-383-4010.

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