

## Guatemala, Neighbors Hit by Quake

The Washington Post  
June 14, 2007

GUATEMALA CITY, June 13 -- A powerful earthquake shook [Guatemala](#) and parts of neighboring nations Wednesday, sending some residents of the capital rushing into the streets for safety. Officials said there were no immediate reports of casualties or serious damage.

The 6.8-magnitude quake struck at 1:29 p.m. and was centered 70 miles southwest of [Guatemala City](#) off the Pacific coast, according to the [U.S. Geological Survey](#). Officials said the earth shook for 22 seconds.

Benedicto Girón, spokesman for the National Disaster Reduction Center, said there had been some landslides in the southwest province of Escuintla, but they apparently did not cause any serious problems.

He noted that telephone service was down in some areas and information was trickling in slowly from various provinces.

"It rattled a lot of nerves," Girón said.

The Geological Survey said the temblor was strong enough and close enough to population areas to have caused damage.

The quake was felt strongly in neighboring [El Salvador](#), where some people ran into the streets in the capital, [San Salvador](#), but the [Red Cross](#) there said it had no reports of damage or injury. It was also felt in the Mexican city of Tapachula, near the Guatemalan border.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center based in [Hawaii](#) said no tsunami was expected to result from the quake.

The region is prone to earthquakes. Almost 23,000 people died in a 1976 temblor.