

Earthquake Damage

Factors that Cause Damage

- The seismic waves do not cause damage. Usually, other factors such as an earthquake's size and the type of ground people inhabit will determine the extent of damage. Fires that typically follow earthquakes also add on to earthquake damage.
- Higher population densities cause earthquake to kill more people.
- Solid bedrock cause less damage than soft bedrocks, since solid bedrocks vibrate less.
- **Liquefaction** happens when ground saturated with water acts like quicksand and creates a landslide.

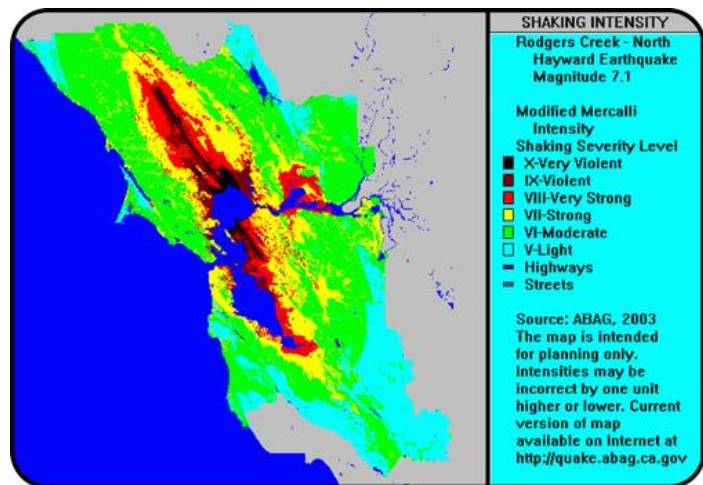
Study Tip

PSL Population, Surface, Liquefaction. These are the indicators of how much damage an earthquake will cause.

City Planning

Planners map out how much shaking is expected for certain areas, and this can help planners determine where to build new schools and hospitals.

Expected shaking mapped out for city planning purposes



Concept Check

- What are two factors that determine earthquake damage?
- What is liquefaction?
- How does this information help city planners?