



U.S. Department of Transportation

SITUATION REPORT, ESF #1 - TRANSPORTATION

*Red Label: indicates a required field.

OPERATIONAL STATUS

Agency: DOT

*Op Status: Yellow - Disruption or other than normal operations

*Report #: DOT-HQ-05

*Related Event: Seattle Earthquake, 7.0 magnitude

Status as of: 02/28/2001 at 20:08

Region/Office: Headquarters

Distribution Level: Open - For Public Release

Situation Summary: A 6.8 magnitude earthquake struck Seattle at 1:55 p.m. EST. The epicenter is located 30 miles SW of Seattle, WA, between Olympia and Bremerton. The earthquake depth of 22.2 miles is similar to the depth of the 1949 earthquake - no aftershocks occurred then and none are expected with this quake. Initial reports do not indicate major damage. There are approximately 18,000 customers without power. Several Washington State office buildings were evacuated. The Governor is working from the Emergency Operations Center. The FEMA Director and Congressional Delegates are travelling to Seattle tonight. A large amount of minor damage exists throughout the region, particularly to older buildings. General Services Administration is sending engineers to Seattle to inspect Federal buildings. The earthquake was also felt strongly in Vancouver, BC at the Pacific Region headquarters building. Transport Canada reports no damage to the Canadian transportation infrastructure. The Governor of Washington declared a State of Emergency for western Washington,

TRANSPORTATION IMPACT

Air: Seattle airport (SEA/TAC) is open for all departures and arrivals. The airport fueling system is functional, and fuel is currently available. Windows in the Air Traffic Control Tower are damaged. Minor injuries occurred in the terminal due to falling ceiling tiles. Damage is currently being assessed at the terminal facilities. Air traffic facilities are all operational. SEA/TAC air traffic control tower is operating from a temporary facility on the west side of the airfield. Radar coverage is currently being transferred from center back to the Terminal Radar facility at SEA/TAC.

Bellingham airport is open and operational.

Currently, 18 flights bound for Seattle were diverted to Portland, OR.

Portland airport is open, and reports no damage.

The FAA Northwest Mountain Regional Operations Center has been

evacuated and operations transferred to West Pacific Regional Operations Center in Los Angeles.

Boeing field (Private airport) near Seattle, is closed due to reported runway damage.

Rail: Burlington Northern is conducting a track inspection in 220 mile radius of the epicenter.

Union Pacific is conducting a track inspection in a 100 mile radius of the epicenter.

No reports of injuries at this time.

Amtrak service is temporarily halted for track inspections. Delays of 4-6 hours are expected.

Highways: Unusually high traffic volumes are being experienced in the area. Information about road way conditions including closures, debris, status of bridges and state routes continues to come in as roads are inspected. For the most part, the roads were open with heavy traffic. Land slides and debris have occurred affecting roads. All Interstates are open; some of the state routes are affected. US Highway 2 across Stevens Pass is closed for both east and west bound traffic near Gold Bar due to damage to the "Big Eddy" bridge, which reportedly dropped several inches. The Interstate 90 floating bridge is listing.

Traffic is heavy but moving between Seattle and Olympia. All Interstate freeways are open.

The Federal Highway Administration Division Office is closed and will remain closed on Thursday.

Marine: There have been only minor waterways management disruptions as a result of the earthquake in Seattle. There have been no reported vessel or waterfront facility casualties as a result of this incident.

Media reports of computer problems at Vessel Traffic System (VTS) Seattle are inaccurate. District 13 reports all VTS operational.

CG Captain of the Port (COTP) has allowed the port to remain open.

All pier structures in the Seattle/Tacoma area are being evaluated.

The COTP has ordered all moored vessels to remain moored.

The COTP has ordered inbound vessels to go to anchor - the number of vessels in the

queue is not known at this time.

Building #1, the location of the Coast Guard Group, Marine Safety Office (MSO), Vessel

Traffic Service (VTS), and Industrial Support Command (ISC), located at Pier #36, was

temporarily evacuated due to structural damage.

CG VTS, MSO, Group, and ISC re-located.

CG Group temporarily located operations at CG Cutter HEALY; has resumed operations

in Building #1 at Pier #36

CG VTS has moved back into Bldg. #1 and has resumed control of traffic system

communications. There were no vessel movement difficulties reported as a result of this incident.

CG District 13 maintained operations in the Federal Building. A CG C-130 from Air Station Elizabeth City, NC will fly tonight to Charleston, WV to pick-up an FAA communications van for delivery to Seattle.

Transit: Seattle's monorail and bus operations (King County or METRO) both resumed operations within one-hour after the earthquake struck. The tunnel and viaduct and monorail guide-way were all inspected and found to be structurally sound. Currently there are no light-rail-vehicle operations in Seattle. There is a heavy-rail transit operation involving one vehicle departing in the morning and another at night (also not affected by the earthquake). There were no reports of damage to any of the ferries.

Area transit agencies headquartered near Seattle (i.e., Everett, Olympia, and Pierce County) reported no injuries and minimal, if any, damages. All area transit agencies have been dispatching teams to inspect for structural damages to their vehicles and facilities.

Pipelines: Olympic Pipeline and Williams Natural Gas companies are shut down while their systems are being inspected.

The Office of Pipeline Safety (RSPA/OPS) Western Regional Office in Denver, CO is contacting pipeline operators in the area affected by the earthquake. Both companies have dispatched employees to patrol their pipeline for leak indications and Olympic is checking their storage tanks for damage. Kinder Morgan, GATX and Chevron pipeline companies report no pipeline integrity problems. Phone line disruptions to the area are hampering communications, but early reports indicate no serious pipeline problems. OPS has been unable to make contact with the Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission to obtain a report on the status of state regulated intrastate facilities, namely, natural gas distribution pipelines. There have been no reports of any damage to pipeline facilities.

**Motor Carrier
Safety:
Highway Traffic
Safety:**

ACTIONS TAKEN

What actions have been taken? The DOT headquarters CMC is partially staffed. FEMA has activated the Emergency Support Team - ESF-1 Transportation will be represented.

INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION INCIDENTS

International transportation incidents: Transport Canada reports that there were windows broken at the Vancouver, BC airport but the facility is operational. No problems have been reported affecting the National Civil Aviation Transportation System in Vancouver Flight Information Region. Transport Canada is suspending opes effective 00:30 UTC

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Attachments: None

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