

Modified Mercalli scale

Descriptors	Effects
I. Instrumental	Not felt, except by very few people under especially favourable conditions.
II. Feeble	Felt by only a few people at rest, especially on upper floors of buildings.
III. Slight	Felt quite noticeably by people indoors, especially on the upper floors of buildings. Many do not recognise it as an earthquake. Stationary motor cars can rock slightly.
IV. Moderate	Felt indoors by many, outdoors by few; some awakened. Dishes, windows, doors disturbed; walls make cracking sound. Sensation like heavy truck striking building. Stationary motor cars rock noticeably. Dishes and windows rattle alarmingly.
V. Rather strong	Felt by nearly everyone; many awakened. Some dishes and windows broken. Unstable objects overturned.
VI. Strong	Felt by all; many frightened and run outdoors, walk unsteadily. Windows, dishes, glassware broken; books off shelves; some heavy furniture moved or overturned.
VII. Very strong	Difficult to stand; furniture broken. Damage negligible in buildings of good design and construction; slight to moderate in well-built ordinary structures; considerable damage in poorly built or badly designed structures; some chimneys broken. Noticed by people driving motor cars.
VIII. Destructive	Damage slight in specially designed structures; considerable in ordinary substantial buildings with partial collapse. Damage great in poorly built structures. Fall of chimneys, factory stacks, columns, monuments, walls.
IX. Ruinous	General panic; damage considerable in specially designed structures, well-designed frame structures thrown out of plumb; partial collapse. Buildings shifted off foundations.
X. Disastrous	Some well-built wooden structures destroyed; most masonry and frame structures destroyed with foundation. Railway tracks bent.
XI. Very disastrous	Few, if any, masonry structures remain standing. Bridges destroyed. Railway tracks bent greatly.
XII. Catastrophic	Total damage: almost everything is destroyed. Objects thrown into the air. The ground moves in waves or ripples. Large amounts of rock can move.