MEXICO CITY, Mexico — A magnitude 7.1 earthquake struck central Mexico on Tuesday and killed more than 225 people. Thousands came out into the streets in panic. Earthquakes are measured by magnitude on the Richter scale, which runs from 1 to 10. The higher the number on the scale, the larger and more damaging the earthquake.

The earthquake comes less than two weeks after another quake killed 90 people in the country's southern states. Mexicans also spent today remembering a 1985 earthquake that killed thousands of people.

**Buildings Fall In Capital Of Mexico**

Dozens of buildings fell or were damaged in parts of Mexico City and nearby states. Millions of people live in these areas.

Graco Ramirez is the governor of Morelos, a state to the south of Mexico City. Sixty-nine people were killed in his state.

Francisco Chavez is a spokesman for the Puebla state Interior Department. He said that at least 43 others died in Puebla.

Governor Alfredo del Mazo said that 13 people died in his state, the State of Mexico.

In Mexico City, the capital of Mexico, 93 people were killed.

Rescue Workers Pull Woman From The Rubble

Rescue workers rushed to the site of damaged or collapsed buildings in the capital. Reporters saw onlookers cheer as a woman was pulled from the rubble.

Rescuers immediately called for silence so they could listen and hear others who might be trapped.

The quake caused buildings to sway back and forth in Mexico City. People throughout the city fled from homes and offices. Many remained in the streets for hours, fearful of returning to the structures.

Car alarms sounded and traffic stopped on the iconic Reforma Avenue.

The U.S. Geological Survey is an organization that studies earthquakes. The group said the magnitude 7.1 hit at 1:14 p.m. in Mexico and it was centered near the Puebla state town of Raboso. This is about 76 miles southeast of Mexico City.

Puebla Governor Tony Gali tweeted that there had been damaged buildings in the city of Cholula. This included collapsed church towers.

Mexico's History With Earthquakes

Earlier in the day workers across the city practiced drills. They did this on the anniversary of the 1985 earthquake, which was a magnitude 8.0 shake. That earthquake killed thousands of people and caused massive damage in large areas of Mexico City.

Stories From The Earthquake

Market stall vendor Edith Lopez is 25 years old. She said she was in a taxi a few blocks away when the quake struck. She said she saw glass bursting out of the windows of some buildings.

Local media showed video of waves rocking up and down the city's normally calm canals of Xochimilco. Boats in the canal bobbed up and down.

Mexico City's international airport stopped operations and was checking for any damage.

Much of Mexico City is built on what used to be a lake. Because of this, the soil is soft and can turn to liquid during earthquakes. This can cause stronger effects from earthquakes centered hundreds of miles away.

**Who Felt The Quake?**

The new quake appears to be unrelated to the magnitude 8.1 incident that hit September 7 off Mexico's southern coast. That earthquake also was felt strongly in the capital.

Seismologists study earthquakes and their epicenters. The epicenter of an earthquake is where it begins. U.S. Geological Survey seismologist Paul Earle measured the distance between the epicenters of the two quakes. He observed that they occurred 400 miles apart and most aftershocks are within 62 miles.

Earle said that in the past one hundred years there have been 19 earthquakes with a magnitude of 6.5 or larger near Tuesday's event. There are about 15 to 20 earthquakes this size or larger each year worldwide.

Early studies show that more than 30 million people would have felt some shaking from Tuesday's earthquake. The U.S. Geological Survey predicts a lot of damage and lost lives.

**Write a 25 word summary here:**

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1. What was the most significant point of the article?
2. How did you decide what was significant and what wasn’t?
3. How can you decide what is significant and what is not in future readings?