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Singapore News »



Time is GMT + 8 hours
Posted: 10 April 2005 1946 hrs

Tremors reported in Singapore following powerful earthquake in Sumatra

SINGAPORE : Tremors were felt across Singapore after a powerful earthquake occurred off the West Coast of Sumatra in Indonesia at about 6:30pm on Sunday.

The Singapore Meteorological Survey estimates the magnitude of the earthquake to be 7.3 and said the quake was about 700 kilometres southwest of Singapore.

This quake comes in the wake of a series of aftershocks following the major earthquake on December 26.

Frightened residents fled their apartments at Whampoa drive in central Singapore.

Rattled by the tremors, many gathered below their blocks after complaining they were feeling giddy and faint.

Many were also concerned about the structural integrity of their blocks since a series of tremors rocked the island after the major earthquake last year and the Nias earthquake some two weeks ago.

Areas across Singapore including Whampoa, Chai Chee, Bedok, Beach Road, Geylang and Bukit Batok were affected.

Over at Toa Payoh fearful residents complained of furniture moving and lights swaying during the tremors.

"I was in the room. My head was basically down on the floor. And I just feel giddy. I thought it was just my blood pressure playing tricks on me. I heard everyone shouting earthquake," said one resident.

"Little while only. So I thought maybe I was giddy or what. I never think anything of it."

Many Singaporeans said they felt two tremors, one from the initial earthquake, and another some 45 minutes later from an aftershock.

Police have received over 700 calls from concerned Singaporeans. - CNA



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