

Alaska's Earthquake 01 May 2017: Something to think about

I'll probably get flamed with this comment (oh what the heck):

How many of you theorizing about a 9.0 Richter earthquake have actually experience one! I not talking about 5 pr 6 or 7an actual 9+????

Why don't you ask an Alaskan Ham? In 1964 south central Alaska experienced a 9.2 (2nd largest ever measured in history). I was not up here then, but I know several people (some are hams) who lived thru that. Plenty of documents with photos of the destruction.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1964_Alaska_earthquake

But not every telephone pole and tower failed. Yes, all phone connection with lower-48 was interrupted for a long time. Military lost all their comms. Only one's able to provide communication to outside the state were hams! That's right. All documented. Power and phones were impacted (there was no cell back then). Undersea cables broke. The single railroad line from Anchorage to Seward on the Kenai Peninsula was twisted and not repaired for something like 6-mos, single highway south of Anchorage was also damaged for a long period. Homes slid into the inlet, ships were sunk and shoreline destroyed by the tsunami which reached Oregon and California shores and Hawaii 3,000 miles south. Seward and Valdez essentially suffered near total destruction.

But not everything was destroyed and not everyone without utilities.

Of course a significant factor is depth of the epicenter, longitudinal distance from you and what geologic structures the waves travel thru.

I moved to the small town of Hope (AK) when I moved here in 1979. I heard from locals how the land rippled with 30-foot high waves (I suspect maybe not that high but certainly terrifying). Most of the original townsite which lay near the shore of Turnagain Arm sunk 16-foot and the next high tide produced 6-foot of water above the ground level flooding every building. Most are gone now. Town has relocated further away from the shore.

Your skills setting up a temporary station with new antennas, equipment relocated, emergency power and fuel for that (gas stations will not be able to pump without power or may have cracked tanks). Your personal shelter, food, water, and sanitary facilities may be all impacted. If you are lucky some part of your home station may work. Possibly only the mobile station in your vehicle.

I've been thru a few earthquakes in CA (1971 Sylmar 6mi from my apt) and AK. But few really have that large effect that is being discussed, here. I was here for the 7.9 quake centered in the Alaska Range (I'm about 300 miles south of where its epicenter was located. Fortunately it mostly affected uninhabited areas.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2002_Denali_earthquake
<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2016/01/24/magnitude-7-1-earthquake-strikes-alaska.html>
I am 8 miles north of the homes that were destroyed last year.

But doubtful that you will have beach property in Boise.

73, Ed - KL7UW
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