

# 1989: Without Warning



*As the Great San Francisco Quake becomes part of the distant past, many of us ignore the faults that run under our roads and homes. Masked by development, they are easy to forget until a major quake strikes.*

Date: October 17, 1989  
Time: 5:04 p.m.  
Magnitude: 6.9  
Duration: 20 seconds  
Damage: \$6.8 billion  
64 dead, almost 4,000 injured  
Epicenter: 60 miles south of San Francisco in the Santa Cruz Mountains



Homes built on sediment and fill were demolished as soil liquefaction occurred and earthquake motion was magnified.

While 62,000 fans packed Candlestick Park for the 1989 World Series and the evening rush hour was underway, no one was expecting the Loma Prieta quake. Striking the Bay Area without warning, it collapsed sections of highway, caused major damage in San Francisco's Marina District and caught us by surprise.