



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CREWS Quake System Detects Baja Quake

Palm Springs/ Coachella Valley Regional Earthquake Warning System (CREWS)
Seismic Warning Sensors work as designed

Coachella Valley, California (December 30, 2009) – During this morning's earthquake centered in Baja, Mexico, the established earthquake early warning system in Coachella Valley Fire Stations functioned as designed; detecting the earthquake, but not activating systems as the weak local shaking was below triggering threshold.

A moderate earthquake of magnitude 5.8 occurred on the Imperial Fault south of the California-Mexico border today, at 10:49 am local time.

This event was widely and weakly felt throughout the Coachella Valley at Modified Mercalli Intensities (MMI) of I to III, far below the threshold for damage at MMI V.

The early aftershock distribution suggests that this event ruptured the Imperial Fault from northeast to southwest. If this is true, most of the energy and the strongest shaking would be southwest of the epicenter, and Coachella Valley will have been spared the bulk of the effects of this earthquake. Most early reports of strong shaking are north of the epicenter in Mexicali/Calexico and El Cerrito, CA and south of Brawley, CA. However, this may be due to the fact that the region to the southwest of the epicenter is very sparsely populated and will not generate many shaking reports.

“Had this event been a major earthquake that threatened the Coachella Valley, the first QuakeGuard to trigger in La Quinta would have provided the valley with about 15 to 20 seconds of warning time throughout the CREWS network, states Gilead Wurman, Chief Seismologist, Seismic Warning Systems, Inc.

Events such as today's is an important reminder of why the CREWS project is so important said Palm Springs Fire Chief Blake Goetz, president of the Coachella Valley Emergency Managers association and co-lead with the CVAG on the Coachella Valley Regional Earthquake Warning System (CREWS) project.

“Our ability to expand the CREWS system throughout the Valley, potentially doubling our warning time, and to provide pre-shaking Drop, Cover and Hold-on notification to over 79,000 school children will be a huge safety and mitigation benefit to the community”, commented Goetz.

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About CREWS

The Coachella Valley Regional Earthquake Warning System (CREWS) is a comprehensive earthquake early warning system capable of the rapid detection of regional earthquakes and the transmission of warnings to users to initiate actions that will protect people and property. Earthquake detectors will be placed at strategic locations along the Southern San Andreas Fault and San Jacinto Faults, in critical infrastructure such as fire stations, and in schools throughout all three districts. CREWS will provide earthquake warning to approximately 80,000 school children and faculty. It will also warn hundreds of first responders and emergency personnel who provide disaster response services to the region's 500,000 residents. CREWS is a private/public partnership between the Coachella Valley Association of Governments, (CVAG), the Coachella Valley Emergency Managers Association (CVEMA), KESQ News TV Ch. 3, Seismic Warning Systems, Inc. and the Coachella Valley's Public School Districts to provide sustainable Earthquake Warning protection for the Coachella Valley.

About Seismic Warning Systems, Inc.

Seismic Warning Systems has been providing systems and services for early seismic detection and automated system response to commercial, industrial and government customers for ten years. During this time many potentially dangerous quakes have been detected and acted upon, saving lives and protecting against injury, without a single false alarm. The company designs and manufactures the patented QuakeGuard™ family of seismic detection systems, which help avert human injury, mitigate damage to property and other assets, and contribute to business continuity. Seismic Warning Systems is headquartered in Scotts Valley, California. More information is available at www.seismicwarning.com.

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