

Rare 6.1 Earthquake in Gulf Shakes Florida, Prompts Evacuations

A rare 6.1 magnitude earthquake struck the Gulf of America on Monday, sending tremors across Florida and prompting evacuations in several buildings.

The earthquake was centered west-northwest of Mantua, Cuba, and was felt as far north as Tallahassee. The U.S. Geological Survey received more than 4,000 reports from people who felt the shaking.

In Seminole County, officials said, "Multiple calls have been received at the Emergency Communication Centers (9-1-1). Seminole County employees report feeling the tremor in multiple buildings."

The statement continued: "Emergency Management is coordinating with healthcare facilities and other critical infrastructure."



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Officials also noted that the fire department responded to "at least one building evacuated for safety."

Several buildings in the Miami area were evacuated as residents reported swaying structures and shaking furniture.

Walt Disney World Resort confirmed the earthquake was felt in Central Florida.

"An earthquake was felt this afternoon in Central Florida, including Walt Disney World Resort and Universal Orlando Resort," a statement said.

“There are no reports of injuries or major damage. Our teams are continuing to monitor the situation.”

USGS Earthquake Hazards Program spokesperson Steven Sobieszczyk said aftershocks are possible.

“Given the size of the quake, we would expect further aftershocks over the coming days,” he said.

Despite its strength, officials said the earthquake posed no tsunami threat. The quake is believed to be one of the strongest ever recorded in the Gulf region and the strongest ever recorded near Florida.

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