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“SAN ANDREAS” MOVIE: FACT VERSUS FICTION

Earthquake scientists, preparedness experts collaborate on responsive campaign geared toward what’s wrong and what’s right regarding Hollywood earthquake disaster movie

Californians and those elsewhere need to have the best available understanding of their earthquake hazards so they can get better prepared. Hollywood disaster movies like *San Andreas* are entertaining spectacles but often skew reality, leaving unsettling visuals and incorrect information in viewers’ minds. Hollywood fantasy is not California reality.

The Earthquake Country Alliance (ECA) has put together a web page dedicated to knowing the fact and fiction of *San Andreas*, including frequently asked questions, science and preparedness resources, and the animated parody “The Seven Steps to Earthquake ‘Movie’ Safety:” EarthquakeCountry.org/sanandreas.

The Southern California Earthquake Center, U.S. Geological Survey, California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services, California Earthquake Authority, and Earthquake Country Alliance collaborated in making this resource for the public and are ready to discuss with the media and public the earthquake hazard reality of California.

“The devastation caused by the impossibly-large earthquakes in *San Andreas* is depicted almost entirely as damage to tall buildings,” said Mark Benthien, Outreach Director for the Southern California Earthquake Center. “However when real earthquakes happen the disaster most people will face is struggling to survive and recover because they have not taken steps to prepare.”

The San Andreas fault runs 800 miles from the Salton Sea in southern California to Cape Mendocino in northern California, separating the North American and Pacific tectonic plates. As the longest fault in California, it is the source of the largest earthquakes (up to magnitude 8.3, much smaller than the magnitude 9.1 and 9.6 earthquakes depicted in *San Andreas*). However, the San Andreas fault is almost entirely onshore and thus cannot generate a monstrous tsunami as shown in the movie.

Small and big earthquakes are in our future in California, and even the moderate ones can cause damage, like the South Napa Earthquake of August 2014. The good news is that everyone can prepare to survive and recover. Get started today at EarthquakeCountry.org/sevensteps.

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The Earthquake Country Alliance (ECA) is a statewide public-private partnership of people, organizations, and regional alliances that work together to improve preparedness, mitigation and resiliency. Learn more: earthquakecountry.org