

# *The SGD Report*

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Since I live in Los Angeles, I am often invited to Hollywood premieres and cocktail parties at the homes of starlets. With earthquakes fresh on everyone's mind, it is a good thing I maintain my California Earthquake certification. Otherwise, I would have had nothing to talk about at the last party.

For example, did you know that the first scale to measure earthquake intensity, the Rossi-Forel scale, was introduced in the 1800's? It has 10 intensity levels and is still used in some countries, including the Philippines.

The most recognized earthquake measurement is the Richter scale, which was developed in 1935. The Richter scale assigns a number to the magnitude of the earthquake. As a reminder a 6.0 earthquake is 31.6 times more powerful than a 5.0 earthquake.

The Richter scale describes the relative scale of an earthquake, but is not a reliable measure of ground shaking or damage at a particular location. More instructive are intensity scales that identify ground shaking at different sites within the area of the earthquake.

Almost immediately after an earthquake you can go to the USGS internet site, <http://earthquake.usgs.gov>, and see readings from their instruments. Additionally, individuals are now reporting their personal measurement of the quake severity on the internet. Eventually engineers report their findings and intensity maps are published.

If you want almost instant details about an earthquake you can go to <https://sslearnquake.usgs.gov/ens> and register your email address. The USGS will send you EQ details very quickly after a quake, based on the area and severity you select.

California has a training and certification program for adjusters who wish to handle earthquake claims. It is a program comprised of 8 sections including the determination of scope of loss, loss estimation techniques, and the determination of the necessity of an engineer.

All **SGD** property adjusters maintain this certification. Both I and Doug Jackson of **SGD** are regular instructors at CAIIA EQ certification events. If you have a desire to obtain the certification, the next events are in June. More information can be obtained at [www.caiia.com](http://www.caiia.com) .



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