ABOUT US

The Geosciences department is proud of our faculty and staff and their extensive knowledge of a variety of specialties and their research efforts.

We pride ourselves on the experiences we provide our students and the unique opportunities to conduct their own research and field observations.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact us.

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**EARTHQUAKES IN IDAHO**

Idaho is among the most active of states in terms of the number of earthquakes experienced each year.

The mountains and valleys of southeastern Idaho lie within the inter mountain Seismic Belt and tectonic belts II and III of the Yellowstone Tectonic Parabola.

The Bear Lake fault zone is recognized as one of the most active in Idaho.

Infrequent, large surface-faulting earthquakes (M 6.5 to 7.5) on mapped active faults in central and southeast Idaho.

Evidence shows that damaging earthquakes occur in Idaho and may again at any time in the future.

Most earthquakes occur on faults that form the boundaries of Earth’s tectonic plates. Idaho is not on a plate boundary, but many faults in the state can produce large earthquakes.

Tectonic forces within the western part of the North American plate combine with high heat flow from the underlying mantle to stretch the crust in a northeast-southwest direction. In response to this stretching, the rigid crust breaks and shifts along faults, and the fault movement produces earthquakes.

Large damaging earthquakes are most likely to occur in the mountainous regions of eastern and central Idaho, north and south of the Snake River Plain. However, all parts of Idaho have at least a moderate threat from earthquake shaking.

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**DON'T PANIC, BUT BE PREPARED**

Step 1: Identify potential hazards in your home and fix them.

Step 2: Create a disaster plan.

Step 3: Prepare supply kits.

**MEDIA INQUIRY**

With earthquakes being normal in this area, we want the community to be informed on the activity surrounding southeast Idaho.

Although the chance of a major earthquake is low, we value the importance of staying updated on quakes in the region.

A small quake, or series of after shocks does not mean that Yellowstone is going to erupt.

For more information, contact:

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Source: Idaho Geological Survey