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California Seismic Map Is Updated to Include Newly Found Fault Lines

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
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SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — California geology officials have released an updated seismic map that includes more than 50 new fault lines discovered over the last two decades. The officials hope the map, which had not been updated since 1994, will improve earthquake preparedness and construction decisions.

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The California Geological Survey's seismic map, as seen on its Web site, is expected to guide earthquake preparedness.

The map was unveiled Tuesday at the [Tech Museum](#) in San Jose as the [California Geological Survey](#) celebrated its 150th anniversary. The Geological Survey also presented an updated version of a second map that identifies the makeup of rock and soil.

[John G. Parrish](#), the state geologist, said the maps could help guide decisions about where to build schools and hospitals, and where construction standards need to be higher.

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Dr. Parrish said the maps would also lead to the mapping of landslides and tsunami coastal areas. "They can tell you," he said, "what kind of a surface you're building on, and how close you are to a fault."

The newly shown fault lines are among an estimated 15,000 faults in the state.

Dr. Parrish said people living near the new lines should not necessarily panic. Many of the lines, he said, are small and are not expected to generate major earthquakes.

The new maps are more detailed and have interactive digital versions that are linked to [Google maps](#), state officials say.

The seismic map, the fourth to be released by the state, can be seen at quake.ca.gov/gmaps/FAM/faultactivitymap.html.

A version of this article appeared in print on April 29, 2010, on page A22 of the New York edition.

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