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headlines: fire in south land ... earthquake in Guatemala ... accident on the 5

A 7.4-magnitude earthquake struck off the Pacific coast of Guatemala on Wednesday, killing at least 39 people as it ravaged a small state near the Mexican border , the country's president said .

"This was a lot more severe, a lot more shaky," said Peace Corps volunteer Adam Baker, 27, of Carmel, Indiana, who tweeted a picture of a small landslide behind his house in the nearby state of Quetzaltenango.

Survivors by radio and social media talked of widespread landslides and people trapped.