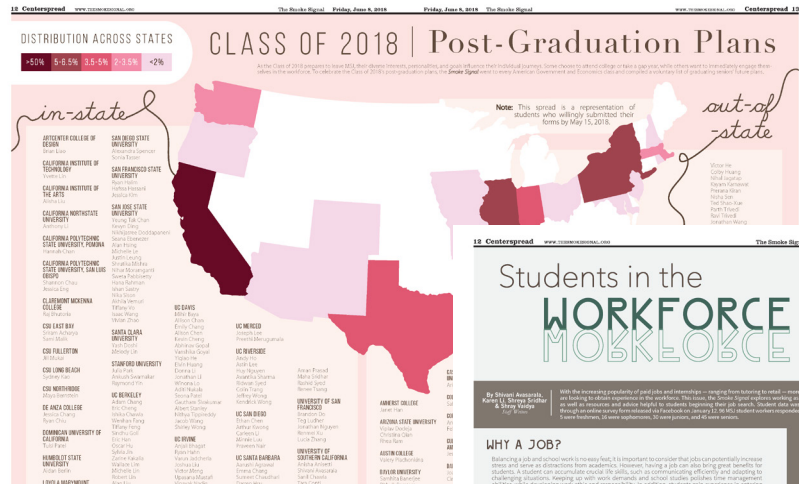


Trials begin for new drop-off system

Robson Homes sponsors improvements to drop-off loops on Palm Avenue



EARTHQUAKE AWARENESS

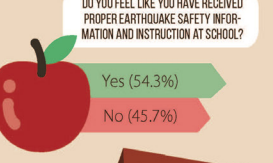
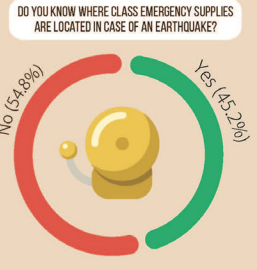
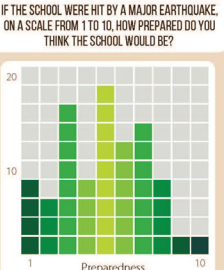
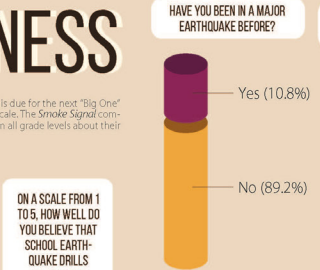
By Samir Jain, Lucia Li,
Praveen Nair & Michael Ren
Staff Writers

The Bay Area is one of the world's hotspots for earthquakes, and many scientists believe the area is due for the next "Big One" in coming years. There are many ways that MSJ students can prepare for a natural disaster of this scale. The *Smoke Signal* compiled information on the Bay Area's risk and history of earthquakes and surveyed 93 students from all grade levels about their opinions on earthquake preparedness.



GEOGRAPHICAL RISK

The Bay Area has a 75 percent chance of experiencing a potentially deadly earthquake in the next 30 years. There is at least a 72 percent chance of there being an earthquake with at least a magnitude of 6.7 on the Richter Scale, and a 50 percent chance of there being a 7.0 magnitude or higher earthquake in the vicinity. Fremont has a relatively high chance of taking the brunt of a potential geological cataclysm. The Hayward Fault, estimated by scientists to be the most primed to break in the Bay Area, goes right through the center of Fremont. Other nearby faults include the Calaveras Fault, which caused the 6.2 Morgan Hill earthquake in 1984, and the Greenville Fault, which caused the historic 1980 Livermore earthquake, rated a 5.8 on the Richter Scale.



HISTORY OF EARTHQUAKES IN THE BAY AREA

The largest earthquake in recent Bay Area history was the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, a magnitude 7.8 tremor on the San Andreas fault line. The tremor leveled 80 percent of the city and killed at least 2,000 people. The earthquake set off a series of fires lasting three days. From 1911 to 1979, the Bay Area faced a 68-year period with only 5.5+ magnitude earthquakes, although this lull was broken by the 1979 Coyote Lake earthquake on the Calaveras fault. In 1989, a magnitude 6.9 earthquake near Loma Prieta Peak shook the Santa Cruz mountains, causing 67 deaths, almost 4,000 injuries, and \$5 billion in damage. The quake famously interrupted Game 3 of the Giants- Athletics World Series and caused a section of the San Francisco Geological Survey Scientist David Schwartz. "The Bay Area has the highest density of injuries per square mile in any urban center." He predicts the next Bay Area earthquake to be more devastating than the Loma Prieta quake due to the population density over the San Andreas and Hayward

GENERAL EVACUATION PROCEDURE

According to FUSD policy, standard procedure for students and faculty inside buildings in the event of an earthquake is to drop, cover, and hold on as rehearsed in drills. Students and faculty who are outside during an earthquake should look for open areas away from buildings and power lines. Once shaking stops, evacuations should occur when directed over the loudspeaker by the principal or other administrator. Evacuation routes should avoid hazardous areas with trees, building overhangs, or electrical wiring.



According to MSJ Student Safety Committee Head Jeana Nightengale, in addition to the FUSD, required supplies stocked in the storage containers on the field, more supplies are also stocked in the emergency backpacks in each classroom. Supplies consist of basic necessities such as a flashlight as well as rations. In addition, MSJ has a number of Community Emergency Response Team certified teachers, who have received extra training in dealing with emergency situations such as earthquakes. More than half of all teachers are also trained in CPR, according to Nightengale.

SCHOOL RESOURCES

HOW TO BE BETTER PREPARED

- Discuss with your household members what to do in case of an earthquake.
- Make sure to learn what the earthquake procedures are at any place you frequent. Identify where the safe places are in your home, such as what furniture you can duck under. Also identify where the dangerous places are in your home, such as bookshelves, and both tell them to walls whenever possible.
- Practice dropping and covering under each safe place.
- Make sure you have a radio. The National Weather Radio. The government run radio station posts valuable information about hazards and updates during earthquakes.
- Keep flashlights around the house, and make sure you know where they are.
- Try to secure any objects that could fall in your house, or keep them closer to the ground.

THE GREAT CALIFORNIA SHAKEOUT

Every year, MSJ participates in a statewide scheduled earthquake safety drill called the Great California Shakeout. It is a program intended to help schools and communities in earthquake-prone CA practice how to "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" in statewide scheduled earthquake safety drills. The program currently has more than 105 million participants across CA, including MSJ and the rest of FUSD schools. The Great California Shakeout was established in 2008, and soon became a part of a larger "Shakeout" program that runs worldwide, operating with more than 57.5 million participants since 2017.

A database of earthquake safety resources, procedures, as well as scheduled dates and informational materials on how to participate or prepare for drills is available at www.shakeout.org, the official website for the program.

Alumni panel gives advice

MSJ alumni speak about their journeys on unconventional career paths