



Hazards Assessment Laboratory  
C240 Clark Building  
Fort Collins, Colorado 80523  
(303) 491-7347

June 6, 1990

Colorado State University  
Hazards Assessment Laboratory  
Department of Sociology  
Fort Collins, Colorado 80523

Dear Resident:

This questionnaire concerns your experience with the 7.1 Loma Prieta earthquake that struck northern California on 17 October 1989. This information is being collected to enable the scientific community to better understand the dynamics of communities in an earthquake disaster.

Your household has been scientifically selected at random to take part in this project. Please have the head of household fill out and return the questionnaire. ALL DATA WILL BE USED IN SUMMARY FORM ONLY. NO INDIVIDUAL INFORMATION WILL BE GIVEN TO ANY STATE OR FEDERAL AGENCY. ONLY COMMUNITY RESPONSES WILL BE REPORTED. ALL INFORMATION WILL BE KEPT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

Please spend a few minutes in filling out the brief questionnaire that follows on the next few pages and return in the postage paid envelope.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis S. Mileti".

Dennis S. Mileti, Principal Investigator  
Colorado State University

1. Prior to the October earthquake, which of the following best describes the severity of the largest earthquake you have ever experienced? (circle one)
  1. I have never experienced an earthquake
  2. I felt it, but it caused no damage
  3. Slight damage (for example, cracks in walls)
  4. Moderate damage (for example, fallen walls or chimneys)
  5. Severe damage (for example, dwelling uninhabitable)
  
2. Before the October earthquake, which of the following best describes what you knew about aftershocks? (circle one)
  1. I did not know about aftershocks
  2. They happen but do not cause additional damage
  3. They happen and can cause additional damage
  4. They can cause more damage than the original earthquake
  
3. Prior to the October earthquake had you ever done anything to prepare for an earthquake? (circle one)
  1. No
  2. Yes
  
4. Prior to the earthquake had you ever received any earthquake preparedness information from any of the following sources? (circle all that apply)
  1. I never received any information
  2. City government
  3. County government
  4. State government
  5. Private organizations (for example the Red Cross)
  
5. Did you feel the 17 October 1989 earthquake? (circle one)
  1. No
  2. Yes
  
6. After the earthquake, did you have access to a working radio? (circle one)
  1. No
  2. Yes
  
7. Did the earthquake cause you or anyone in your household bodily injury? (circle the most severe experienced)
  1. No injuries
  2. Injuries
  3. Loss of life

8. Did that earthquake cause any of the following?

Damage in your neighborhood? (circle the most severe experienced)

1. No damage
2. Slight damage (for example, cracks in walls)
3. Moderate damage (for example, fallen walls or chimneys)
4. Severe damage (for example, uninhabitable residence)

Damage to your residence? (circle the most severe experienced)

1. No damage
2. Slight damage (for example, minor cracks in walls)
3. Moderate damage (for example, fallen walls or chimney)
4. Severe damage (for example, residence uninhabitable)

Damage to your household items for example, furniture, dishes, glassware and so on? (circle the most severe experienced)

1. No damage
2. Slight damage (several things were damaged)
3. Moderate damage (more than several things were damaged)
4. Severe damage (almost all things were damaged)

9. In the first 24 hours after the earthquake, did you in any way (officially, unofficially or as a volunteer) do any of the following emergency activities? (circle all that apply)

1. No, I did none of these activities
2. Search and rescue of victims
3. Provided food or water to others
4. Provided shelter to others
5. Cleaned/removed debris
6. Helped evacuate victims
7. Counseled victims
8. Put out fires
9. Directed traffic
10. Medical attention/first aid for victims
11. Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

10. How many of the first 24 hours after the earthquake did you spend doing any of the above activities? (please fill in)

\_\_\_\_\_ hours

11. In the first 24 hours after the earthquake, did you use radio, television, or newspapers more or less than usual? (circle one)

1. Less than usual
2. About the same as usual
3. More than usual

THE NEXT QUESTIONS CONCERN THE FIRST 72 HOURS AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE

12. Did you hear any of the following publicly announced aftershock warnings? (circle all that apply)

1. I did not hear any aftershock warnings
2. A 20% chance of a 6.0 magnitude aftershock within 24 hours
3. A 3-12% chance of a 5.0 magnitude aftershock within two days
4. Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

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13. If you did not hear any aftershock warnings, why not? (circle all that apply)

1. I did hear aftershock warnings
2. Electricity was out
3. No access to media
4. Too busy responding to the earthquake
5. Other (please tell us in detail-use back of questionnaire if necessary) \_\_\_\_\_

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14. How many times did you hear aftershock warnings, even if it was the same warning repeated? (circle one)

1. None heard
2. Few warnings heard (1 to 3)
3. Some warnings heard (4 to 6)
4. Many warnings heard (over 6)

15. Did you get aftershock warnings from any of the following sources? (circle all that apply)

1. I did not get any aftershock warnings
2. Government officials
3. Scientists
4. Friends and relatives
5. Other community residents

16. Did you get aftershock warnings through any of the following channels of communication? (circle all that apply)

1. I did not get any aftershock warnings
2. Television
3. Radio
4. Newspapers
5. Word of mouth

17. Thinking about all the aftershock warnings you heard, do you agree with any of the following statements? (circle all that apply)

1. I did not hear any aftershock warnings
2. I understood the aftershock warnings
3. They were not specific about what might happen
4. They were specific about what I should do
5. They were not consistent
6. It seemed like the people giving the aftershock warnings knew what they were talking about

18. Did you believe that a damaging aftershock would occur in the first 72 hours following the October earthquake? (circle one)

1. No
2. Yes

19. Did you believe that a damaging aftershock would occur and cause you, your family or your residence injury or damage? (circle one)

1. No
2. Yes

20. Did you take any of the following actions to get ready for a damaging aftershock? (circle all that apply)

1. I did not undertake any action
  2. I sought information about earthquakes in general
  3. I sought information on what to do about aftershocks
  4. I read the earthquake page in the phone book
  5. I made household items safer
  6. I made my dwelling structurally safer
  7. I developed an emergency plan in case of aftershocks
  8. Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

21. After the initial 72 hour post earthquake period, but before Christmas, did you do any of the following things? (circle all that apply)

1. I did not do anything
2. I sought information on aftershocks
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5. I made household items safer
6. I made my residence structurally safer
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8. Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

22. In general, with which of the following statements do you agree? (circle all that apply)

1. An earthquake larger than October's is not expected in my community
2. The California lifestyle is worth the earthquake risk
3. My community is prepared to respond to a large earthquake
4. My home is not located on bad landfill
5. A "big one" is most likely to occur in southern California
6. Most of the earthquake damage occurred on bad landfill

23. Thinking back to your feelings and experiences during and immediately after the 17 October 1989 earthquake, which of the following best describes your overall feelings?

1. Very frightened and upset
2. Somewhat frightened and upset
3. Not very frightened and upset
4. Not at all frightened and upset
5. I enjoyed the experience

THE LAST QUESTIONS ARE ABOUT YOURSELF

24. Are you (circle one)

1. Female
2. Male

25. What is your age? (please fill in)

\_\_\_\_\_ years

26. Which best describes your racial/ethnic identification? (circle one)

1. Chinese
2. Japanese
3. Other Asian
4. African-American
5. Hispanic
6. White
7. Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

27. What is your lifestyle orientation? (circle one)

1. Heterosexual
2. Gay/lesbian

28. At the time of the earthquake in what part or district of your city did you live? (please fill in)

\_\_\_\_\_ city sub-division/district

29. Before the earthquake, how many years had you lived there? (please fill in)

\_\_\_\_\_ years

30. Including yourself, how many people for whom you are responsible reside in your household? (please fill in)

\_\_\_\_\_ people

31. Do you own your residence? (circle one)

1. No
2. Yes

32. How many years did you attend school? (please fill in)

\_\_\_\_\_ years

33. What is your household's before tax income? (circle one)

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Under \$5000      | 4. \$35,000-\$74,999 |
| 2. \$5000-\$14,999   | 5. \$75,000-\$99,999 |
| 3. \$15,000-\$34,999 | 6. Over \$100,000    |

34. Which of the following best describes your job. (circle one; if retired circle former occupation)

1. Manual
2. Skilled
3. Sales or service
4. Managerial/Professional

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP IN COMPLETING THIS QUESTIONNAIRE. SIMPLY MAIL IT IN THE ENCLOSED POSTAGE RETURN ENVELOPE PROVIDED

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO ADD ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS YOU MIGHT HAVE TO HELP US  
BETTER UNDERSTAND YOUR EXPERIENCES AND PERSPECTIVE

JULY 5, 1990

Department of Sociology  
Clark B-250  
Fort Collins, CO 80523  
(303)491-7347

We WANT YOUR 2 CENTS

SO, HERE IS 10 BACK

Earthquake Study

Second Request

Please Read

**\*ALL QUESTIONS PEOPLE OBJECTED TO HAVE BEEN DROPPED\***

**\*TRACKING NUMBERS HAVE BEEN DROPPED\***

**\*PLEASE PARTICIPATE, the results of this study could\*  
affect how future earthquake warnings in California  
are issued**

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- 1. ~~Heterosexual~~
- 2. ~~Gay/Lesbian~~

*please skip*

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~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ city ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ district

*please skip*

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