Earthquakes in Nevada and How to Survive Them

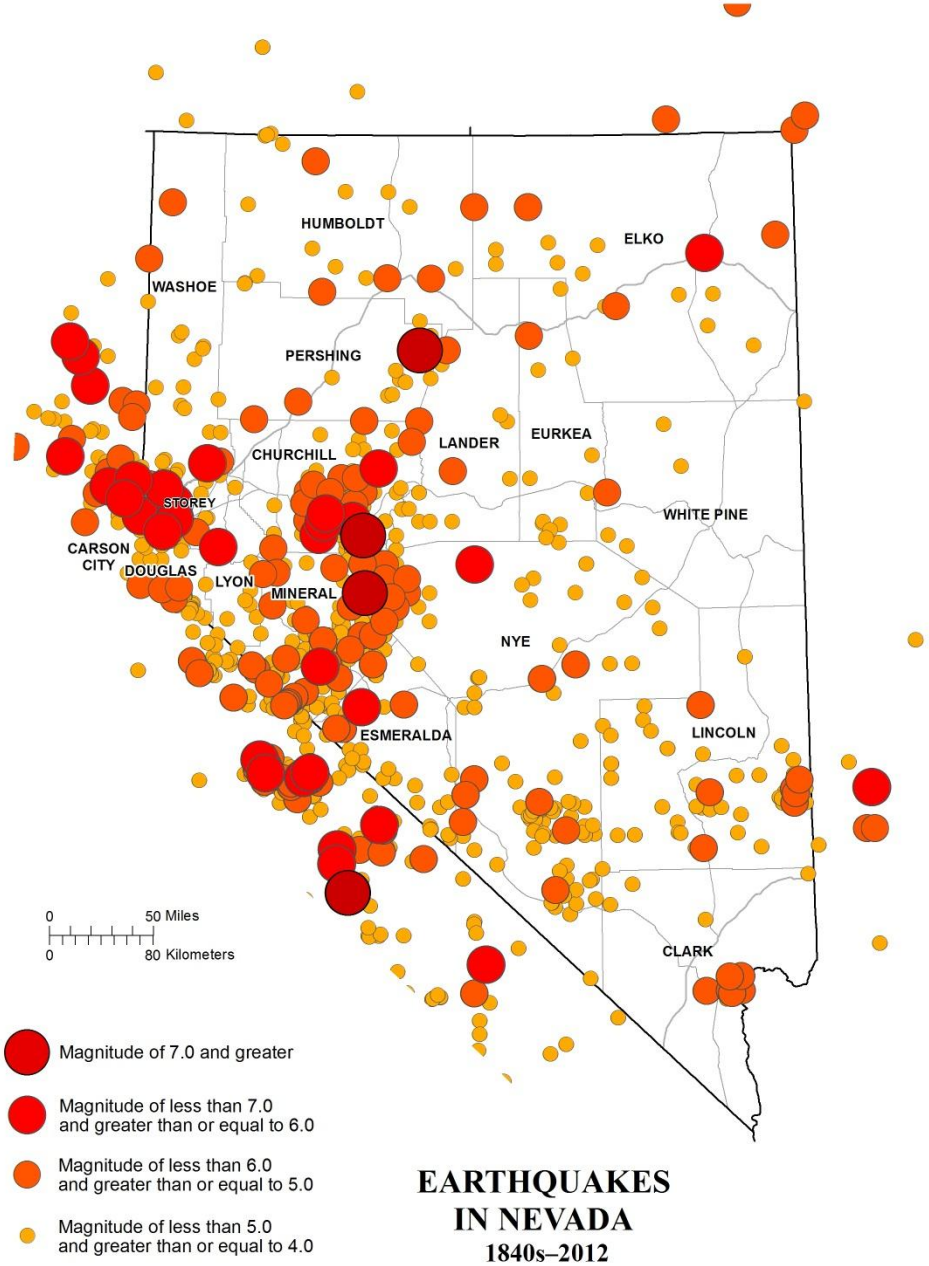
Earthquake Truths

- The consequences of damaging earthquakes to unprepared communities are unacceptable.

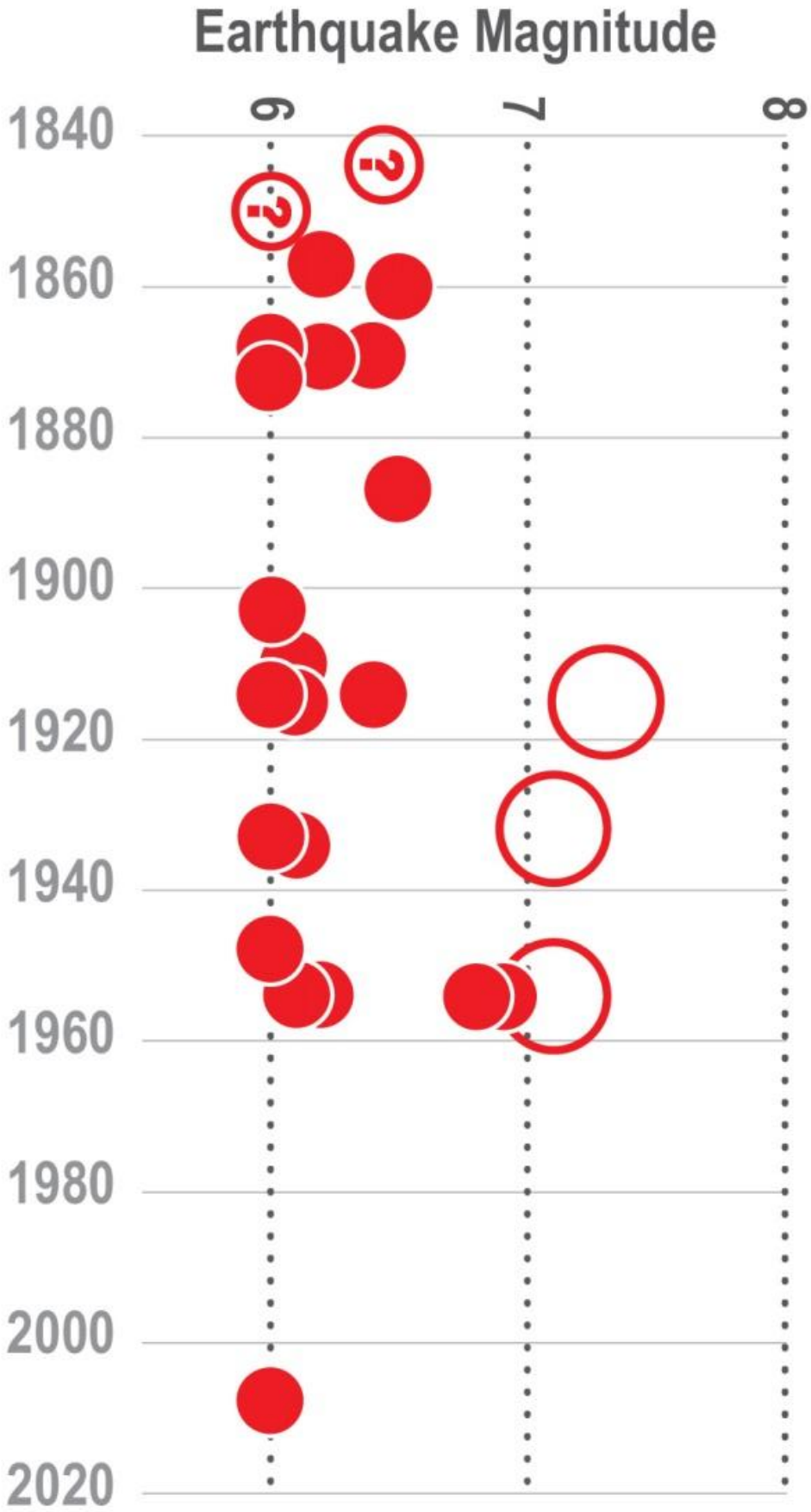
- We know how to ***plan for, prepare for, and mitigate against disastrous earthquake effects***. We know how to minimize injuries and property loss.

Earthquake Hazard

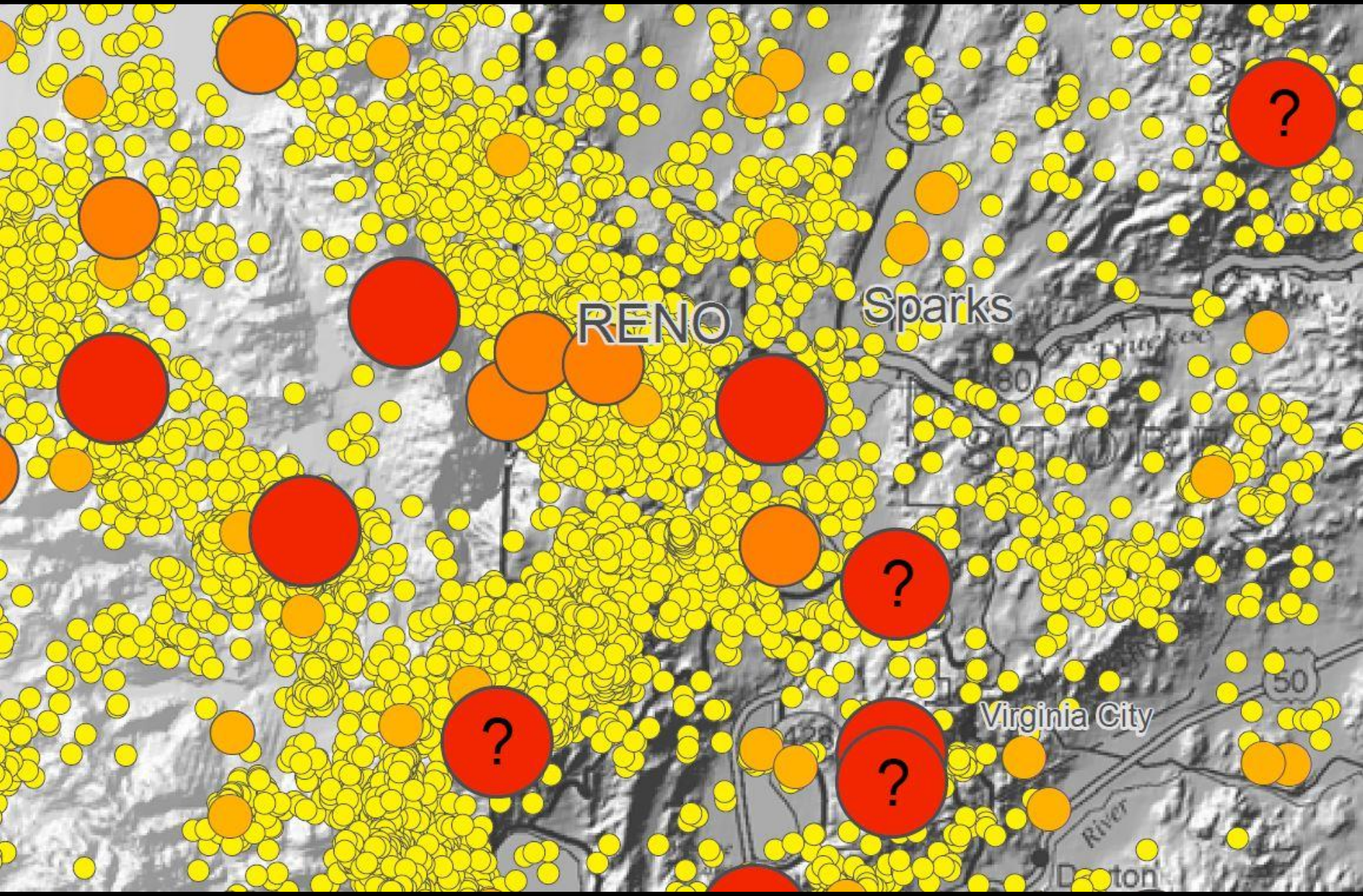
- Earthquakes
- Earthquake faults (Quaternary faults)
- Crustal movement based on geodesy



Earthquakes in the Nevada region recorded from the1840s to 2012. (Nevada Seismological Laboratory)


Earthquake Magnitude
8
7
6
1840
1860
1880
1900
1920
1940
1960
1980
2000
2020
?
?

2008 Mw 6.0 Wells Earthquake

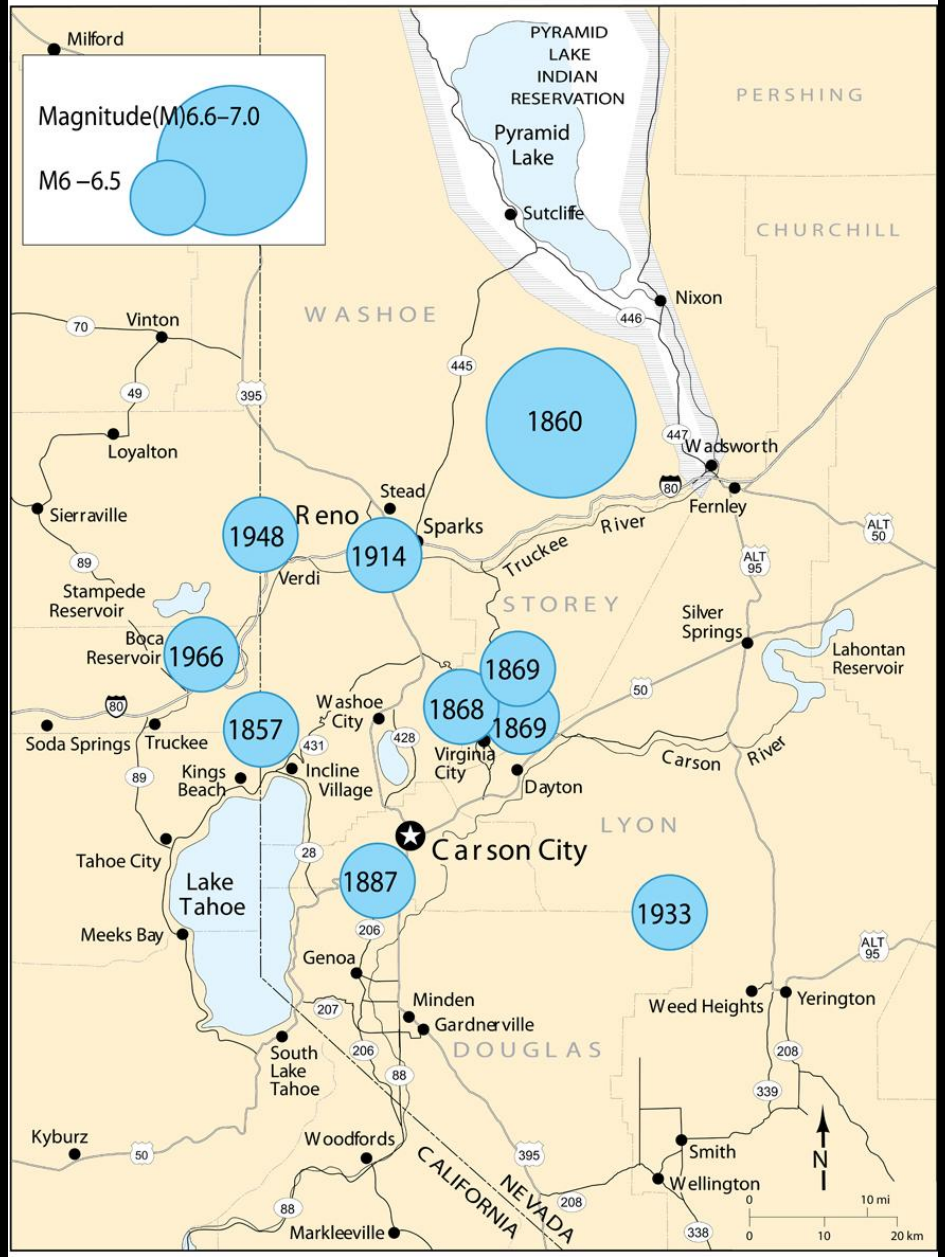

RENO
Sparks
Virginia City
80
50
?
?
?
?
?

Periods of Damaging Earthquakes in Washoe County

- **1857 – 1869** [1957, 1860, 1868, 1869(2)]
- **1914 – 1915** [1914(2), 1915]
- **1948 – 1954** [1948, 1952, 1953, 1954]
- **2008 – ?**

Preparing for earthquakes in Nevada will likely have a more than one time benefit.

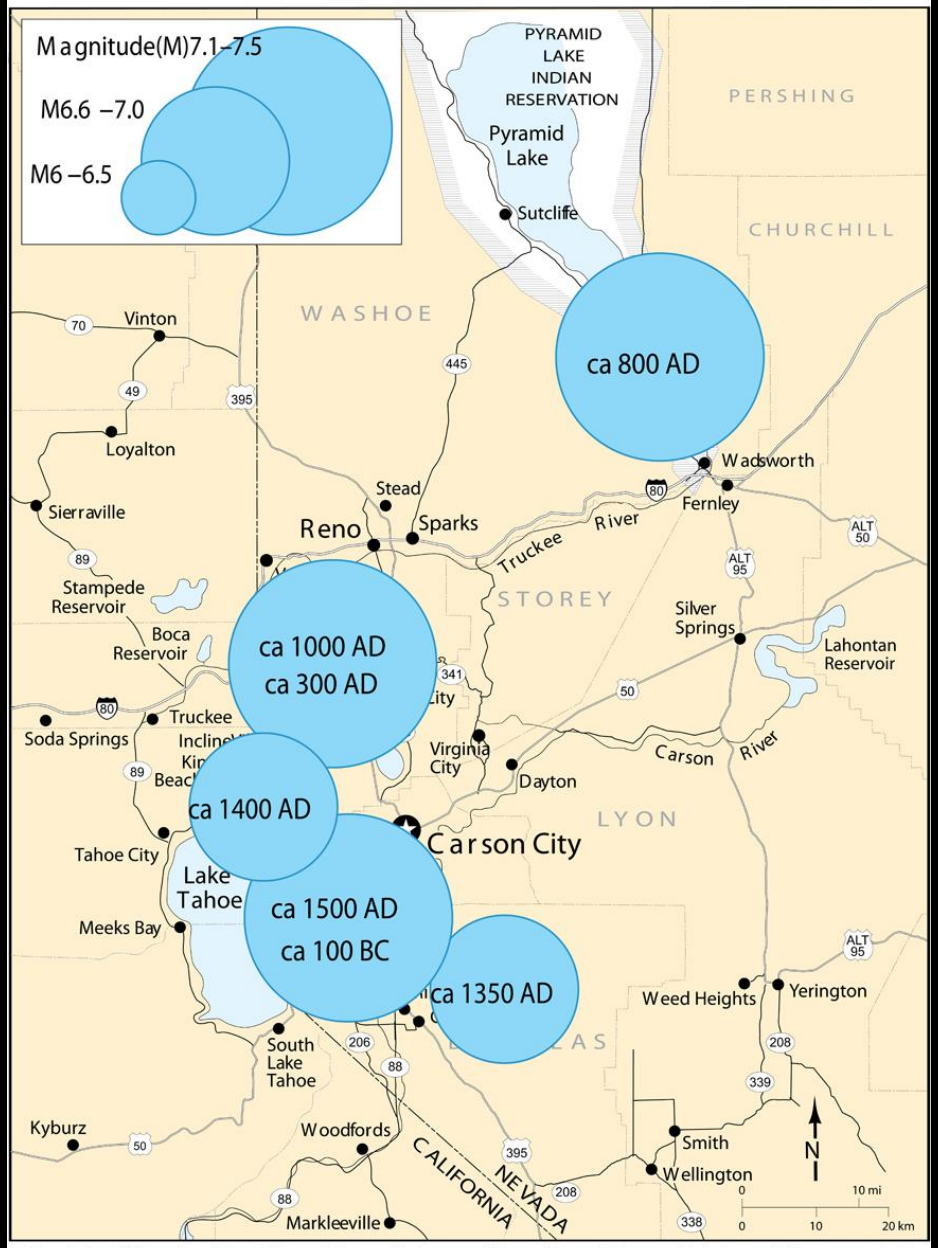
Major Historical Earthquakes in Western Nevada*



dePolo and others (2007 unpub. res.), Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology

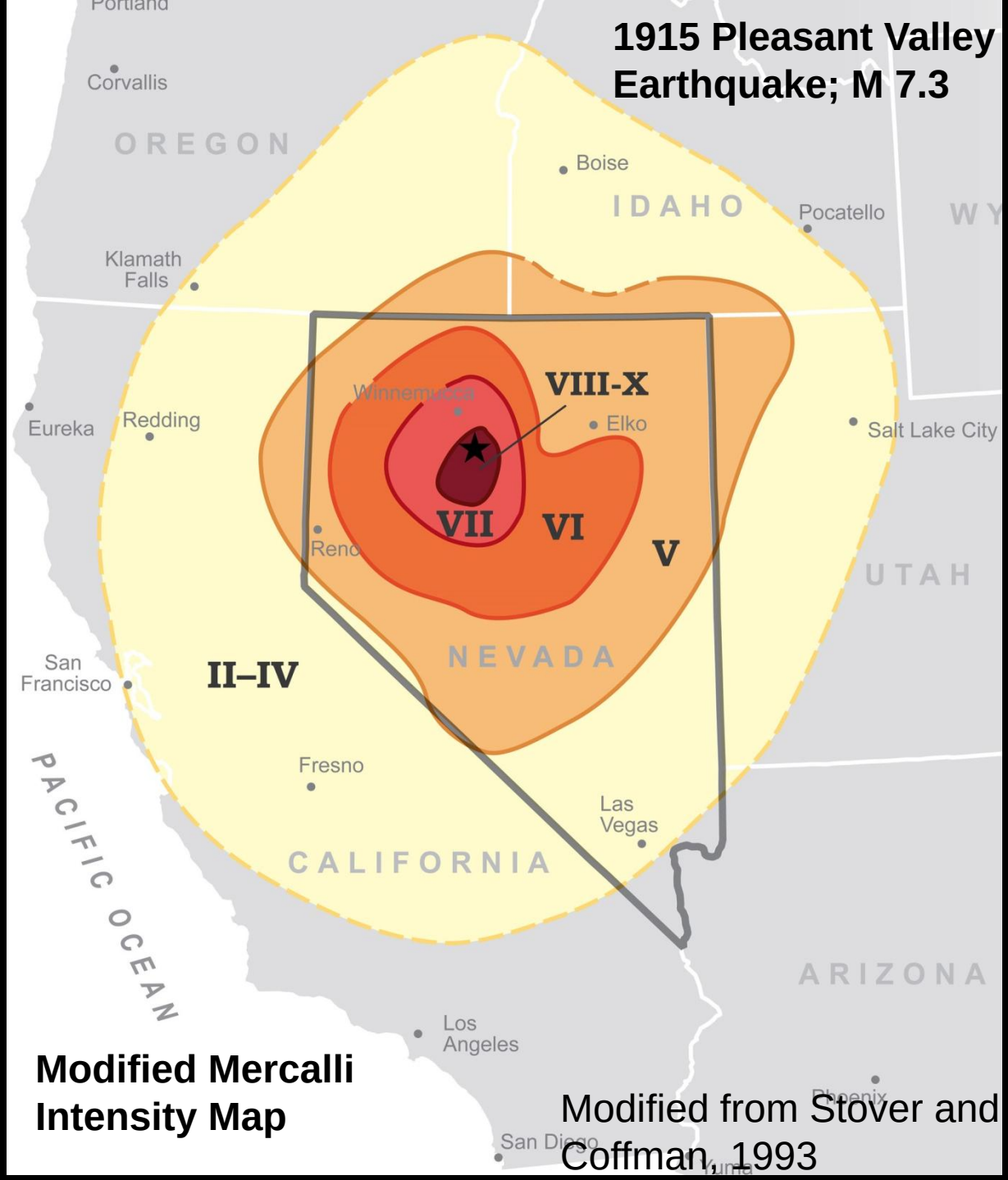
Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology

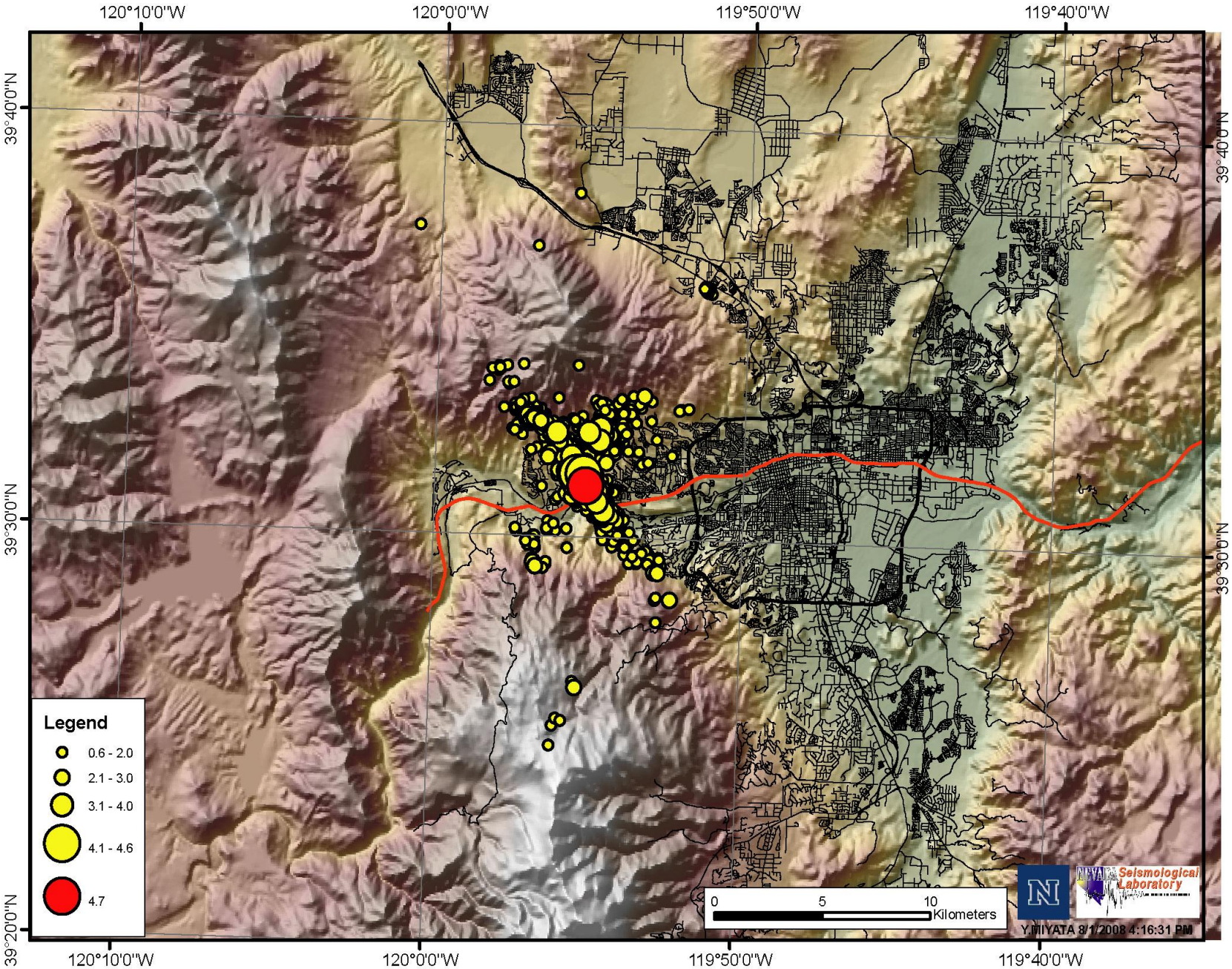
Some Major Earthquakes in Western Nevada (approximately 100 BC—1850 AD)*

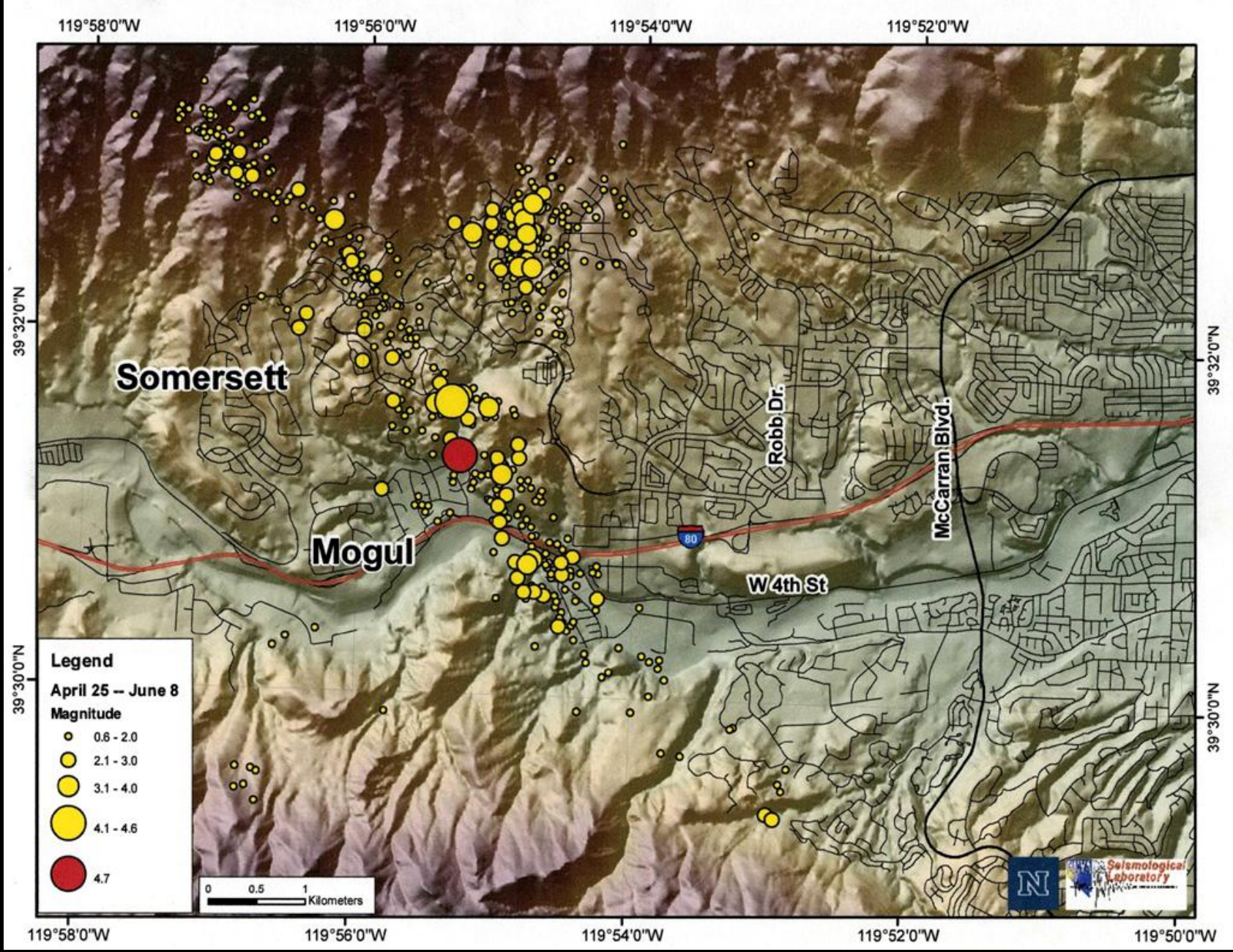


dePolo and others (2007 unpub. res.), Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology

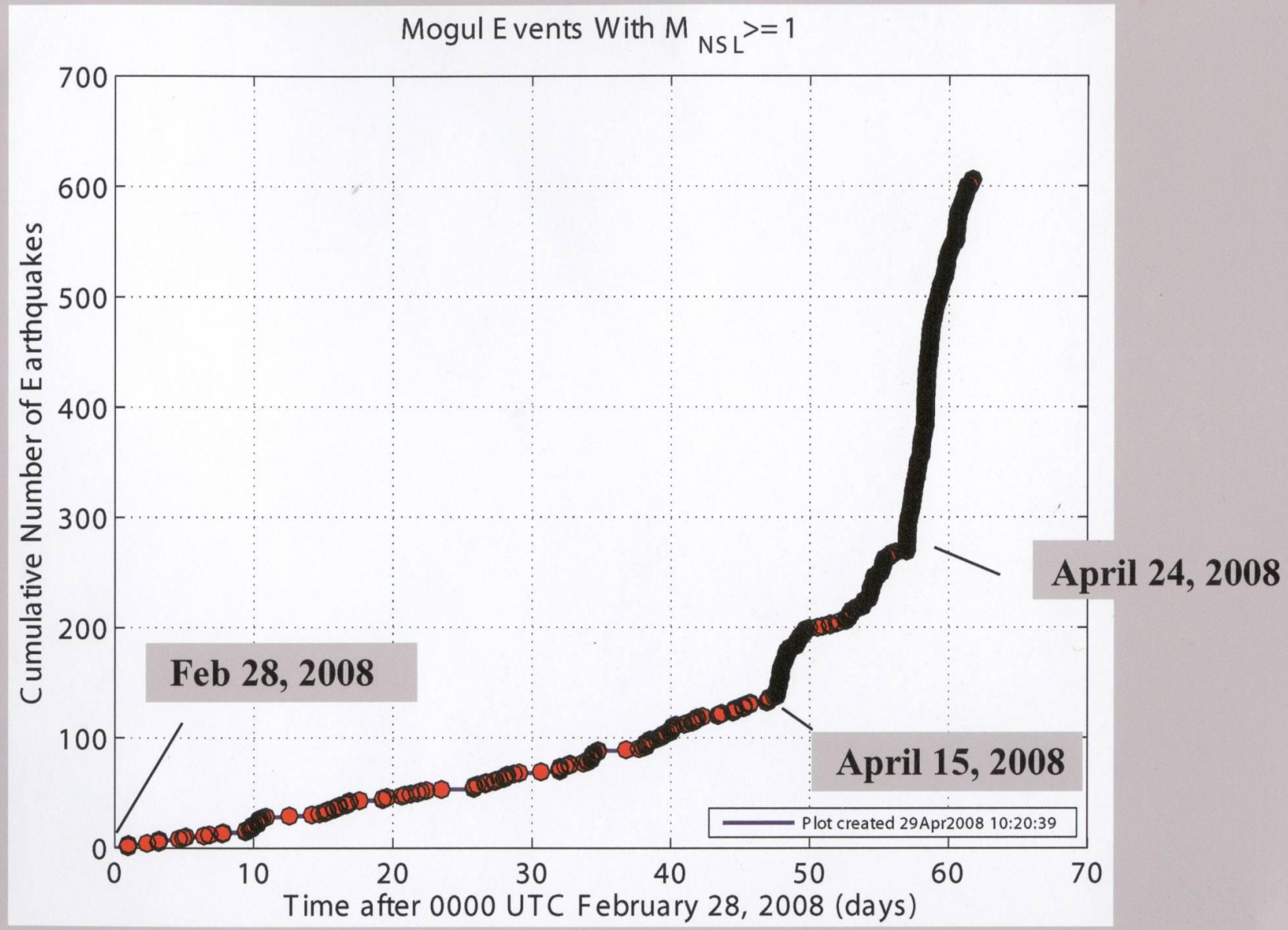
*This map is incomplete because of limited research. Dates are approximate. Earthquake magnitudes are estimated from the size of the fault and the amount of offset of the ground.


1915 Pleasant Valley Earthquake; M 7.3
Portland
Corvallis
OREGON
Boise
IDAHO
Pocatello
WY
Klamath Falls
Eureka
Redding
Winnemucca
VIII-X
Elko
Salt Lake City
VII
VI
V
Reno
UTAH
NEVADA
San Francisco
II–IV
Fresno
Las Vegas
PACIFIC OCEAN
CALIFORNIA
ARIZONA
Los Angeles
San Diego
Modified Mercalli Intensity Map
Modified from Stover and Coffman, 1993


120°10'0"W
120°0'0"W
119°50'0"W
119°40'0"W
39°40'0"N
39°30'0"N
39°20'0"N
Legend
0.6 - 2.0
2.1 - 3.0
3.1 - 4.0
4.1 - 4.6
4.7
0
5
10
Kilometers
Seismological Laboratory
Y.MIYATA 8/1/2008 4:16:31 PM



Aftershocks of the April 28th 2008 Mw 5 Earthquake (red) K. Smith relocations

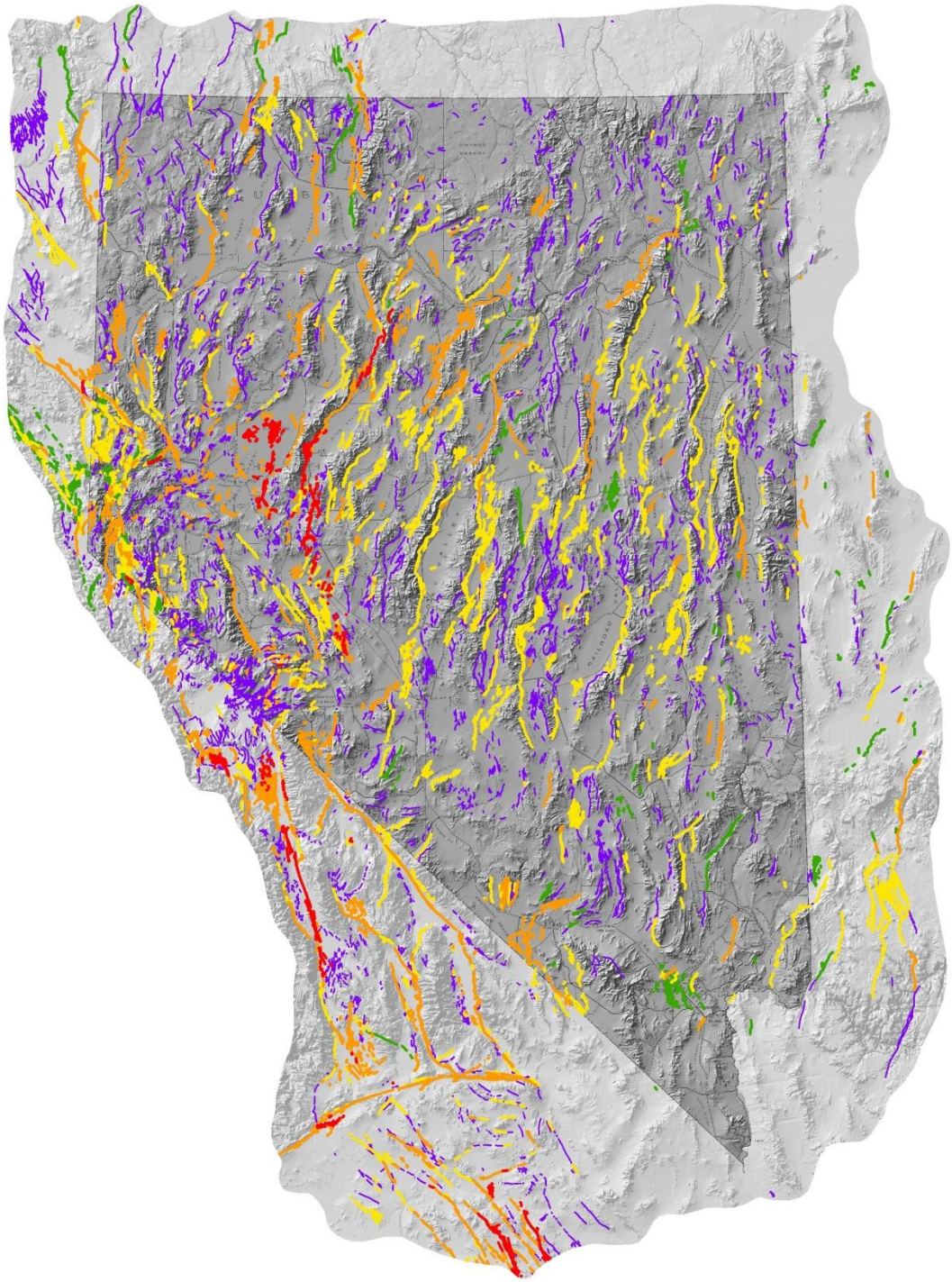


Earthquake Activity Graph – John Anderson, Nevada Seismological Laboratory

Earthquake Faults
(Quaternary Faults)

- Major normal dip-slip faults
- Moderate local strike-slip faults
- Major regional strike-slip faults
- Buried faults
- Blind faults
- Background earthquake sources

Nevada Faults



Years Before Present of Latest Fault Rupture

<150	Historical
<15,000	Latest Pleistocene and Holocene
<130,000	Latest Quaternary
<750,000	Mid-Quaternary
<1,800,000	Quaternary

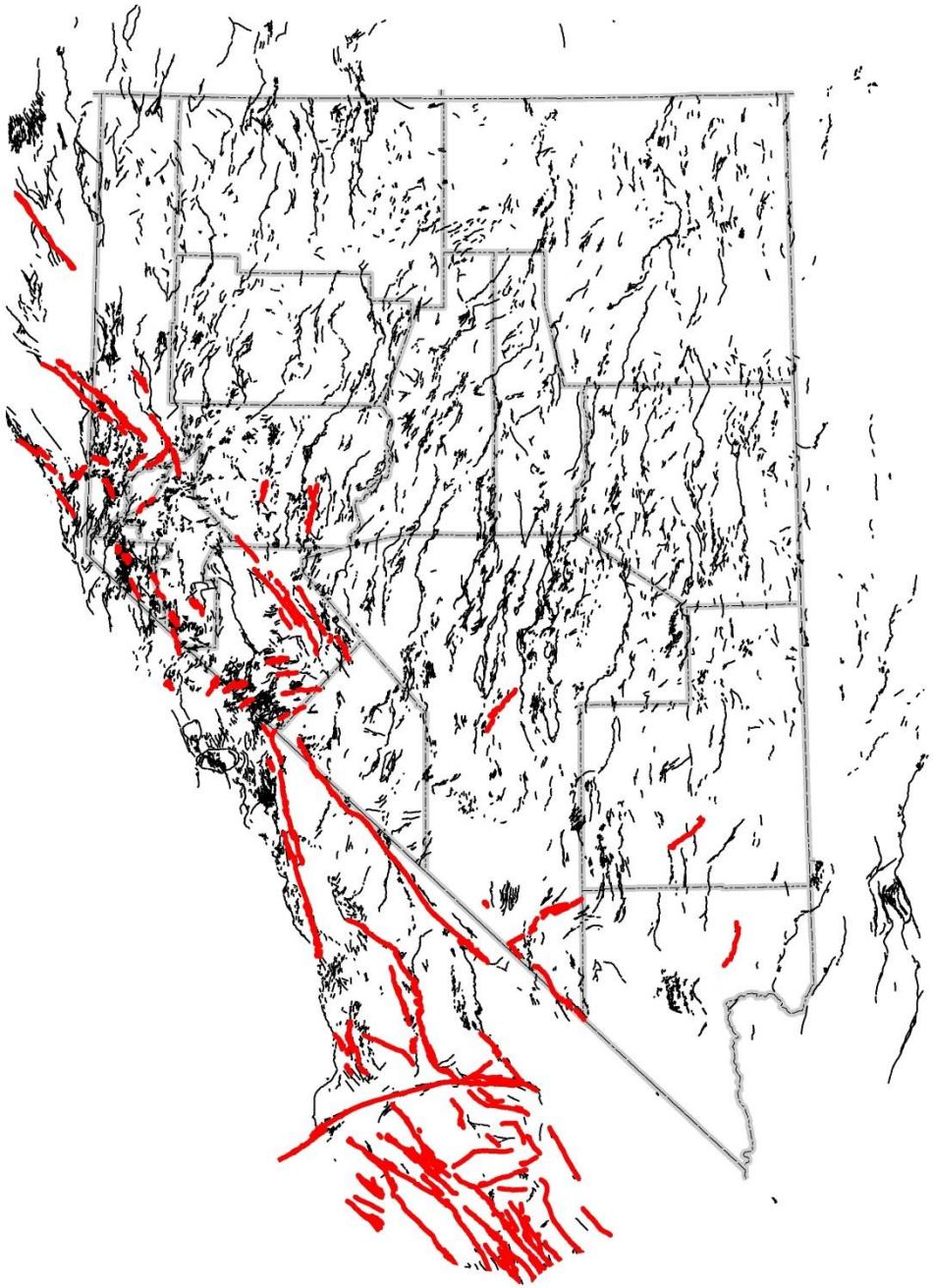
Fault Movement in Nevada

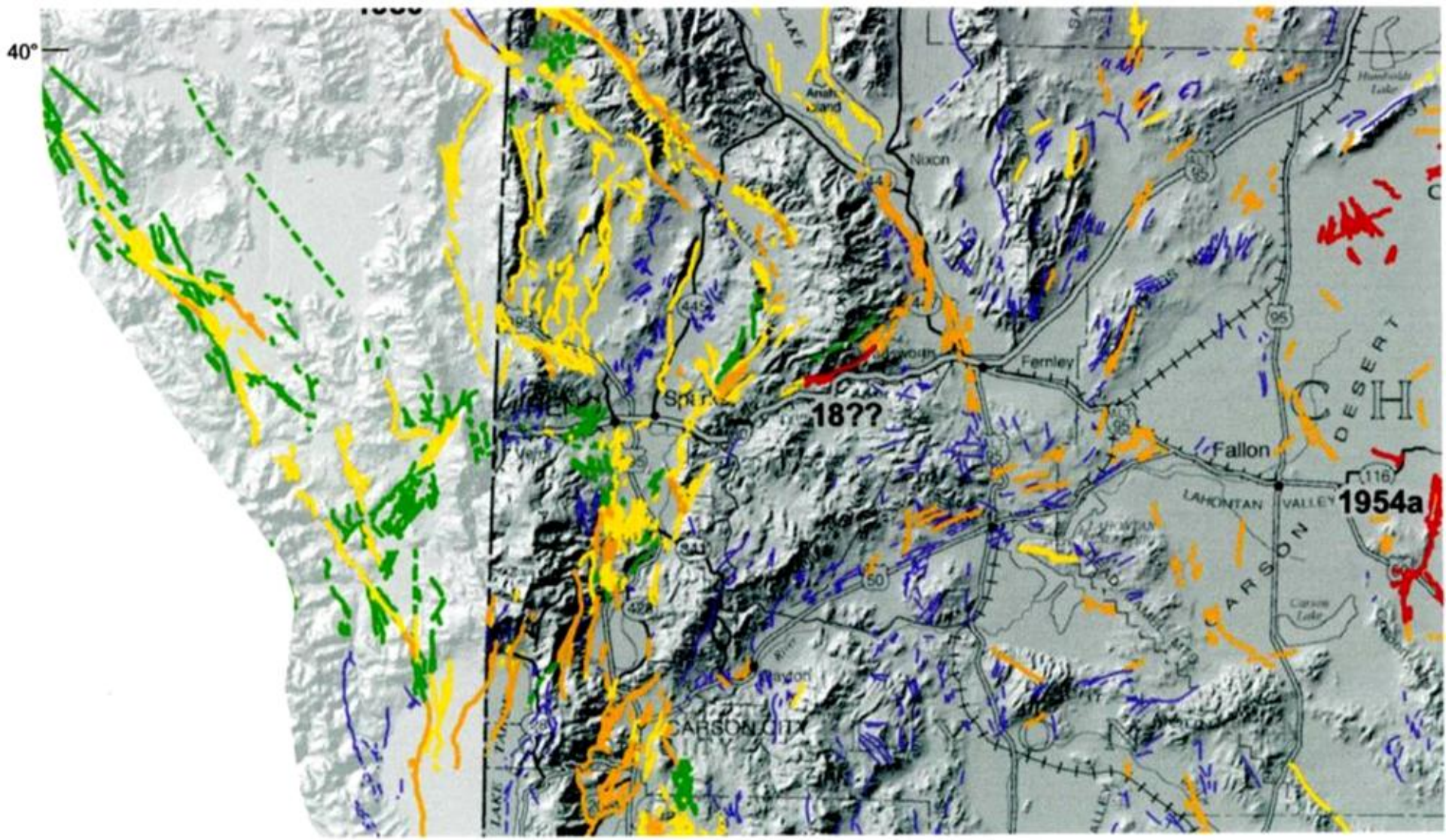
Normal dip-slip fault

(includes oblique-slip or unknown slip)

Strike-slip fault

(includes historical ruptures, some oblique-slip faults, inferred strike-slip movements, and some wrench patterns resulting from strike-slip movement)





Quaternary Fault Map of Nevada
dePolo (2008)

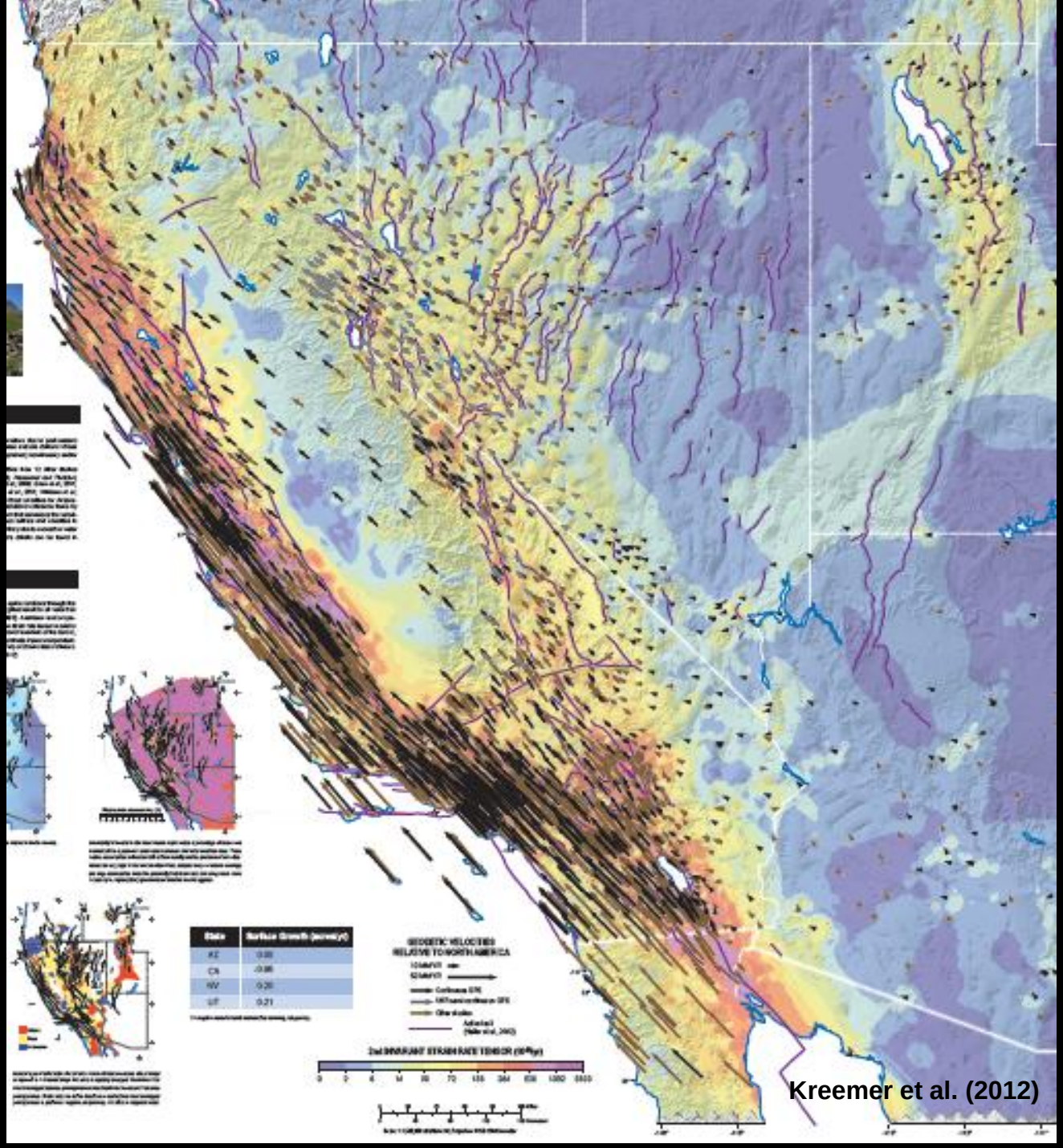
Photo by Alan Ramelli

Photo by
Burt Slemmons

Fault Earthquake Sources

- Maximum earthquakes: **Magnitude 6.5-7.3**

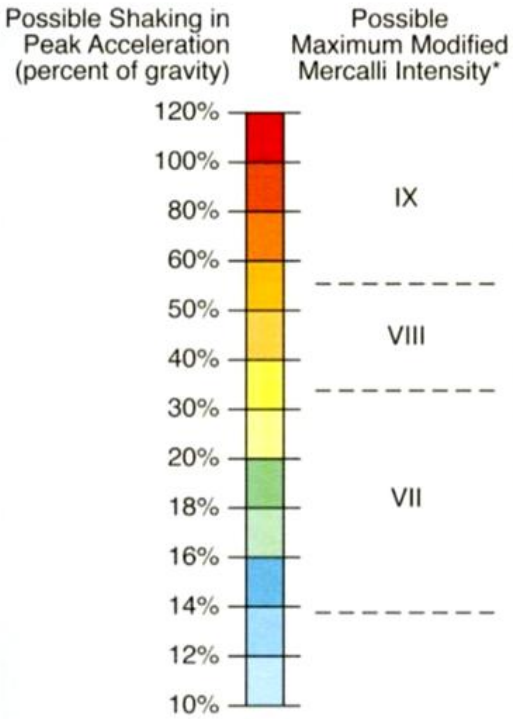
- Amount of systems effected:
  - **M5** localized part
  - **M6** part damaged, whole system felt
  - **M6.5** half? damaged, whole system stressed
  - **M7** whole system damaged?


State
Surface Growth (percent/yr)
AZ
CA
NV
UT
GEODETIC VELOCITIES
RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA
Kreemer et al. (2012)

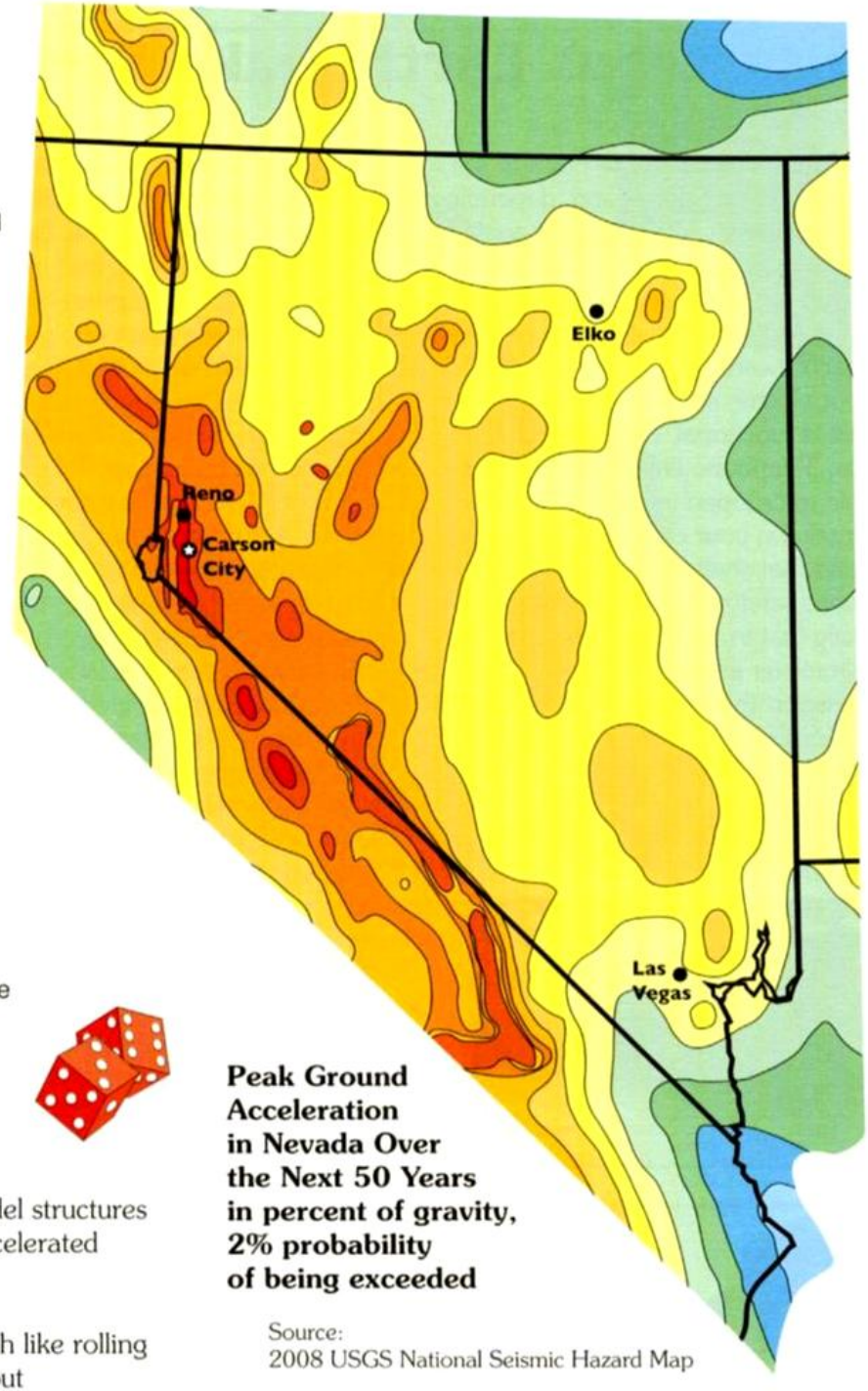
Strong Ground Motion

- Low velocity sediments:
  - greater displacements
- Basin effects:
  - enhancement of waves
    - greater amplitudes
    - monotonic wave trains
  - increased duration
  - basin geometry; tapered-edge effect
- Source effects:
  - type of earthquake
  - directivity effects

Shaking Potential Map for Nevada



* See page 4 for descriptions of Intensity VII and VIII. In Intensity IX, general panic occurs and there may be damage to some well-built structures.



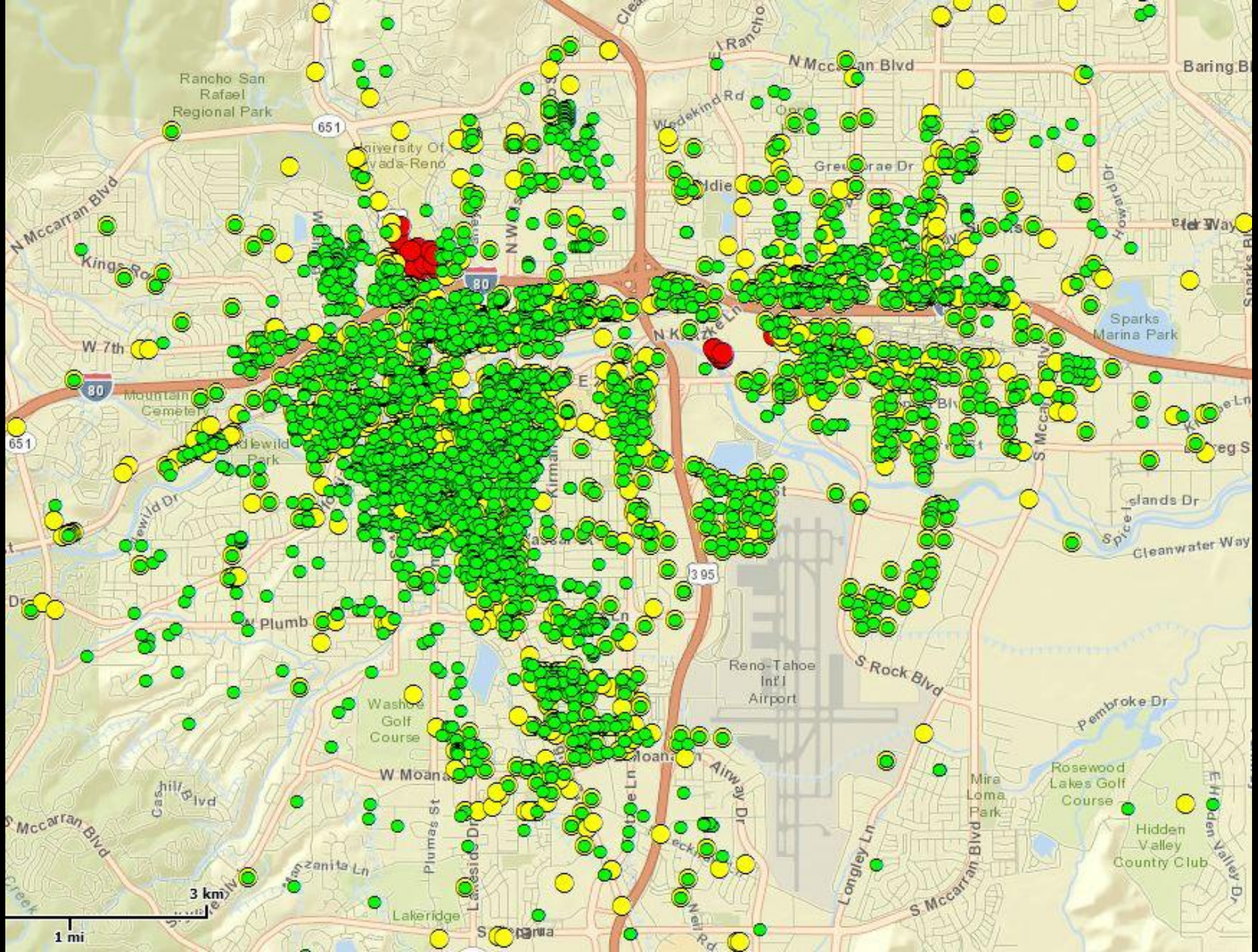
Peak Ground Acceleration in Nevada Over the Next 50 Years in percent of gravity, 2% probability of being exceeded

Source:
2008 USGS National Seismic Hazard Map

Engineers use computer models and model structures to see how buildings hold up to being accelerated sideways by a seismic wave.

The notion of a map like this is very much like rolling the dice and calculating odds. If a rarer, but


BAR
306
RENO


Rancho San Rafael Regional Park
University Of Nevada-Reno
N Mccarran Blvd
Baring Bl
Wedekind Rd
Greenbrae Dr
Kings Rd
W 7th
Mountain Cemetery
Idlewild Park
Sparks Marina Park
Spice Islands Dr
Cleanwater Way
W Plumb
Reno-Tahoe Int'l Airport
S Rock Blvd
Pembroke Dr
Washoe Golf Course
W Moana
Airway Dr
Mira Loma Park
Rosewood Lakes Golf Course
Hidden Valley Country Club
S Mccarran Blvd
Plumas St
Lakeside Dr
Manzanita Ln
Lakeridge
Longley Ln
Neil Rd
3 km
1 mi

Earthquake Preparedness

1) Be Prepared to Respond – Drop, Cover, and Hold,

What do I do when an earthquake hits?

Dane Golden / FEMA News Photo

Do Not Run Out Of A Building During An Earthquake!!!


FIRST & GOAL INC.
AND
CUTTING EDGE
CONCEPTS
ENTRANCE
FIRST & GOAL
Reserved
VIOLATORS
WILL BE TOWED

Earthquake Preparedness

1) Be Prepared to Respond – Drop, Cover, and Hold,
2) Identify potential earthquake hazards in you home and workplace and mitigate them,

What are you protecting yourself from?

Nonstructural damage often can be easily prevented.

Secured computers at the Clark County Building Department

Earthquake-secure bookshelves in the office of the State Geologist

Earthquake Home Hazard Hunt

FEMA 528 9/2005

Recommendations for reducing earthquake hazards in your home are presented on the other side of this poster.

Brace or replace masonry chimneys

Strap down computers

Strengthen garage to have living space above them

Strap bookcases and shelves to walls to prevent tipping

Know how and when to shut off utilities

FEMA

Earthquake Home Hazard Hunt

Correcting Problems

Utilities

Teach responsible members of your family how to turn off electricity, gas, and water at main switch and valves. **Caution:** Do not shut off gas unless an emergency exists. If gas is ever turned off, a professional must restore service. Contact your local utilities for more information.

Label the water shut-off valve, found where water enters the house. Also the main water shut-off valve, found with the meter in a concrete box in the sidewalk or yard.

Weak Crawlspace Walls

Wooden floors and stud walls are sometimes built on top of an exterior foundation to support

First floor, Floor joists, Plywood panels, Siding

Hanging Objects

Present wall hangings from bouncing off walls:

- Secure mirrors, pictures, plants, and other objects on closed hooks.
- Secure the bottom corners with earthquake putty or adhesive pads.
- Place only soft art such as tapestries over beds and sofas.

Home Electronics

Electronics are heavy objects and costly to replace. Secure TVs, stereos, computers, and microwaves with earthquake-resistant flexible nylon straps and buckles for easy removal and relocation (see Figure D).

Figure D. Securing home electronics.

Flexible fasteners (e.g., nylon straps)

Child-proof drawer lock

In the Kitchen

Cabinet doors, refrigerators, and gas appliances should be secured so that they will not move or fall over during an earthquake.

- First, secure all cabinets above waist level securely to the wall studs.
- Use latches designed for earthquake, childproofing, or boat safety to keep cabinet doors from flying open and contents falling (see Figure E).
- Have a plumber install flexible connectors on gas appliances.

Child-proof drawer lock

Flexible fasteners (e.g., nylon straps)

Drywall

Wall studs

Strap secured to wall studs behind book case

Removable straps across front of shelves to prevent contents from falling

Figure F. Securing top-heavy furniture.

Gypsum board

Flexible water line connection

Water heater

Straps

Flexible gas line connection

Figure G. Securing water heaters.

Take Action To Protect Yourself and Your Family From Earthquakes

Create and Practice Your Disaster Preparedness Plan

An emergency preparedness plan includes life-critical actions, life saving training, and the advance plans to enable you to respond to earthquakes and potential physical injuries and hazards no matter where you are.

Life-Critical Actions – Learn how to:

- Drop, cover, and hold.
- Signal for help, if you are trapped somewhere. Teach children and adults to use an emergency whistle and/or to knock three times repeatedly if trapped. Rescuers searching collapsed buildings will be listening for sounds.

Life Saving Training – Consider training in:

- First Aid
- CPR
- How to use a fire extinguisher
- How to shut off gas, water, and electricity

Your Disaster Preparedness Plan Should Include:

- Disaster Supplies Kits for home, workplace, and car
- Practicing Drop, Cover, and Hold
- Financial Plan
- Family Communications Plan that each family member understands
- Needs for all family members, including children, seniors, and pets

Financial Plan

You should store your family's documents, such as insurance policies, deeds, property records, birth certificates, and other important papers, in a safe place away from your home (e.g., safety deposit box). Make copies of important documents for your disaster supplies kit.

Consider saving money in an emergency savings account that could be used in any crisis. Back up critical files on your computer and keep a copy in a safe place away from your home.

Create Your Disaster Supplies Kit

Because you don't know where you and your family will be when an earthquake occurs, prepare a Disaster Supplies Kit for your home, workplace, and car. For detailed information about the items that should be included in your disaster supplies kit, refer to FEMA 526, *Earthquake Safety Checklist*.

Family Earthquake Drill

It's important to know where you should go for protection when your house starts to shake. By planning and practicing what to do before an earthquake occurs, you can condition yourself and your family to react correctly and spontaneously when the first jolt or shaking is felt. An earthquake drill can teach your family what to do in an earthquake.

- Each family member should know safe spots in each room.
- Safe spots: The best places to be are under heavy pieces of furniture, such as a desk or sturdy table; under supported archways; and against inside walls.
- Danger spots: Stay away from windows, hanging objects, mirrors, fireplaces, and tall, unsecured pieces of furniture.
- Reinforce this knowledge by physically placing yourself in the safe locations. This is especially important for children.
- In the days or weeks after this exercise, hold surprise drills.
- Be prepared to deal with what you may experience after an earthquake — both physically and emotionally.
- Following the drop, cover, and hold procedure is the best way to be safe during an earthquake.
- Take cover under a sturdy desk, table, or bench and hold on to the desk or table leg so that desk or table stays on top of you. Hold on until the earthquake shaking stops.
- Family members should practice drop, cover, and hold in the safe spots that you and your family have identified.

Further Information

For more information about earthquake preparedness and safety, refer to the following publications, which are available from the FEMA Distribution Facility at 1-800-480-2520. As noted, some are available for download from the FEMA website.

After Disaster Strikes: How to recover financially from a natural disaster, FEMA 292. Available in both English and Spanish.

Are You Ready? An In-depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness, IS-22, August 2004. Full publication and individual sections available online in both English and Spanish at http://fema.gov/preparedness/prepare_guides_links.shtm.

Before Disaster Strikes: How to make sure you're financially prepared to deal with a natural disaster, FEMA 291, May 1997. Available in both English and Spanish.

Earthquake Safety Checklist, FEMA 526, August 2005.

Earthquake Safety Guide for Homeowners, FEMA 530, September 2005.

Food and Water in an Emergency, FEMA 477. August 2004. Available online in both English and Spanish at http://fema.gov/preparedness/prepare_guides_links.shtm.

Preparing for Disaster for People with Disabilities and Special Needs, FEMA 476. August 2004. Available online in both English and Spanish at http://fema.gov/preparedness/prepare_guides_links.shtm.

Visit the FEMA website at http://www.fema.gov/hazards/earthquakes/ for information about the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) and more ways to address earthquake risks.

Water Heaters ⑧ ⑩

Water heaters should be braced (**see Figure G**). There are many solutions – all relatively inexpensive.

Purchase and install a strap kit or bracing kit from your local hardware store.

Other options include:

- Have a licensed plumber strap your water heater according to code.
- Use heavy metal strapping and screws to secure the water heater to the wall studs.

The gas and water lines should have flexible connector pipes. These are safer than rigid pipes during an earthquake. Be sure to check the straps once a year. They may come loose as a result of vibrations or other causes.

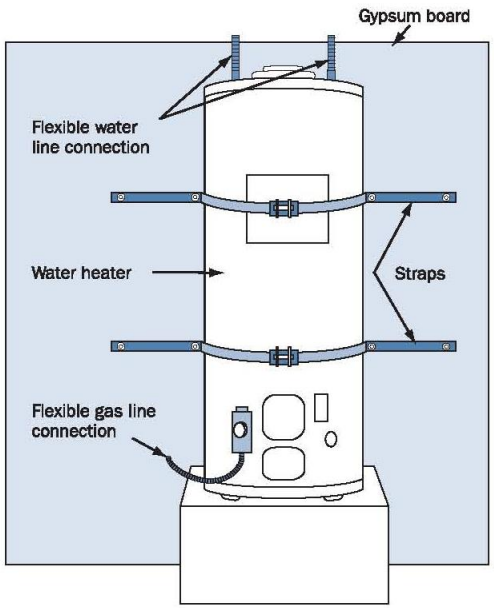
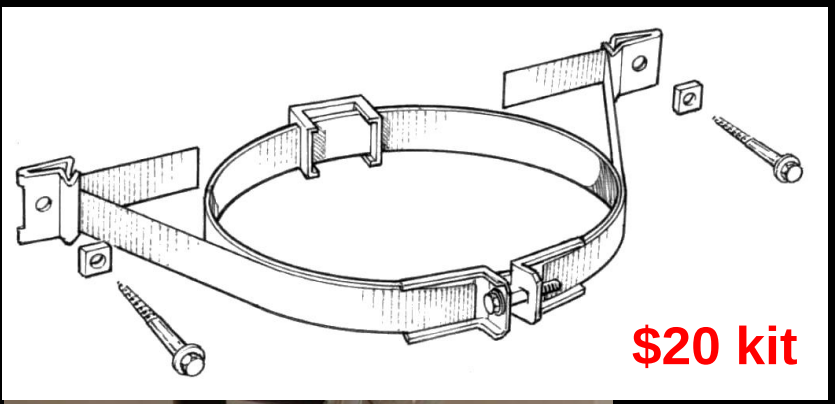
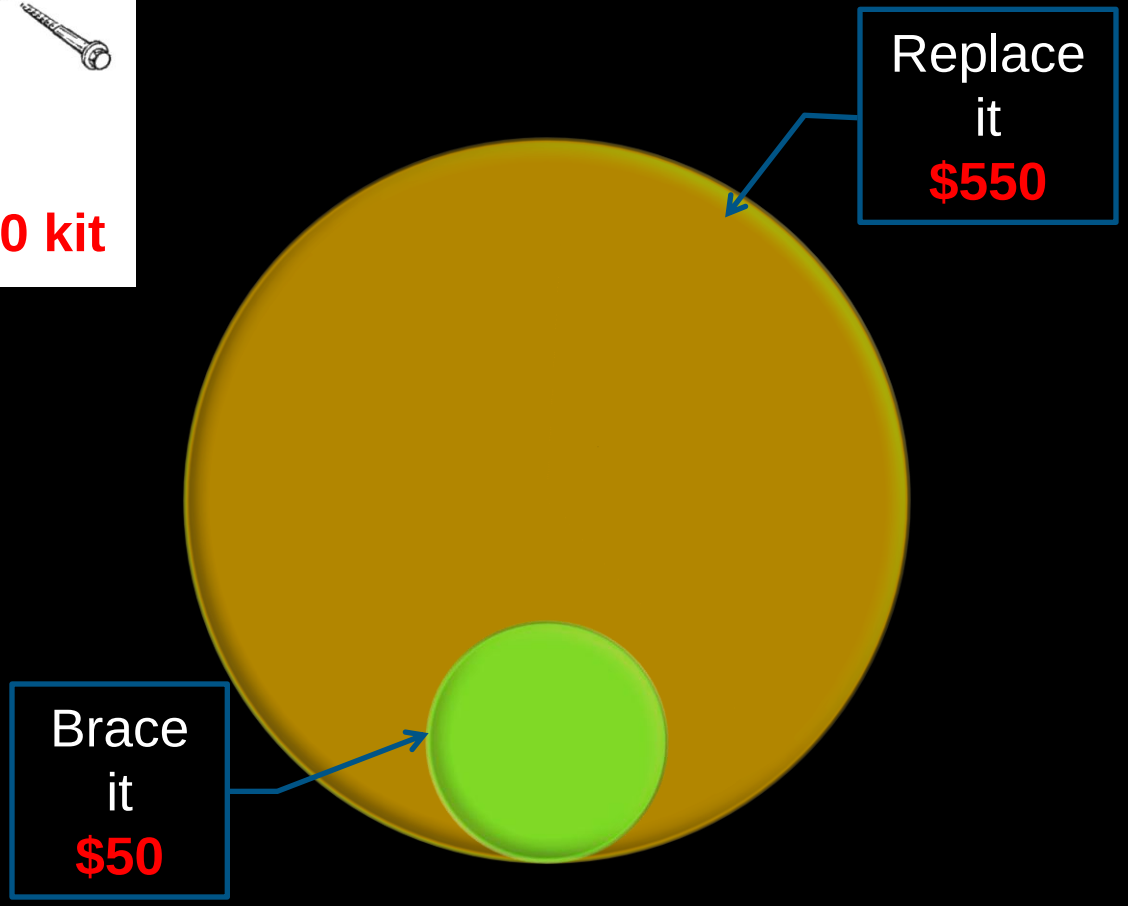


Figure G. Securing water heaters.

Mason Industries

Brace it or replace it?





Earthquake Preparedness

1) Be Prepared to Respond – Drop, Cover, and Hold,
2) Identify potential earthquake hazards in you home and workplace and mitigate them,
3) Prepare a disaster kit (3 to 5 days),

Get Your Kit Together!

3-5 Days

Food, Supplies, Meds, Beer

Whatever You Need

Earthquake Preparedness

1) Be Prepared to Respond – Drop, Cover, and Hold,
2) Identify potential earthquake hazards in you home and workplace and mitigate them,
3) Prepare a disaster kit (3 to 5 days),
4) Create a disaster preparedness plan,

Earthquake Plan

The road to earthquake safety begins with your family earthquake plan. Follow these eight steps to prepare your plan. Then display it where you can review it with members of your household.

1 **Emergency locations.** Sketch you home's floor plan on this grid. Include symbols below for the safe and danger zones, supplies, utilities, evacuation routes, and reunion sites.

2 **Practice duck, cover, and hold** in the safe spots in every room. The earthquake drill should be exercised every three months. List dates practiced below.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

3 **Store supplies and prepare earthquake kits** (see lists on page 10).

- Safe spot
- Danger zone
- Evacuation Route
- Outside emergency reunion site
- First aid kit
- Utility shut-off valves
- Utility shut-off tool
- Fire extinguisher
- Personal earthquake kits
- Emergency supplies
- Critical papers
- Keys

4 **Family day locations and medical needs.** Discuss with your family what to do and where to go when an earthquake strikes at home, school, work, or wherever you regularly go during the day. List any allergies or medication needs for each family member below.

Person	Day Location	Meeting Place	Special Medical Needs

Note: Schools release children only to the person(s) authorized on the child's emergency information card. School officials do not have the authority to release your children to the Red Cross shelter set up at their school.

5 **Out-of-town contact:** _____ Phone: _____

Alternate contact: _____ Phone: _____

Earthquake Preparedness

1) Be Prepared to Respond – Drop, Cover, and Hold,
2) Identify potential earthquake hazards in you home and workplace and mitigate them,
3) Prepare a disaster kit (3 to 5 days),
4) Create a disaster preparedness plan,
5) Identify building weaknesses and fix.

Seismic Resilience

- Anchored to foundation?
- Built to building code?
- Enough lateral resistance?

Following An Earthquake

- Check on your neighbors, work together, reassure one another,

Following An Earthquake

- Check on your neighbors, work together, reassure one another,

- Begin clean up and recovery right away or as soon as it is safe to do so; taking control.

Following An Earthquake

- Check on your neighbors, work together, reassure one another,
- Begin clean up and recovery right away or as soon as it is safe to do so; taking control.
- Volunteer where you feel comfortable to do so; every agency and business will be stretched.

Great Nevada ShakeOut

Great Nevada ShakeOut

Register and Get Involved!

shakeout.org/nevada/

LIVING WITH EARTHQUAKES IN NEVADA

nbmg.unr.edu/dox/sp27.pdf

Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology
nbmg.unr.edu

Nevada Seismological Laboratory
seismo.unr.edu

University of Nevada, Reno