

University of Wisconsin-Extension
GEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY
3817 Mineral Point Road
Madison, Wisconsin 53705

M.E. Ostrom, State Geologist and Director

LIST OF EARTHQUAKES IN WISCONSIN

by

M.G. Mudrey, Jr.

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1984

Location	Year	Month	Day	Central Std Time			North Latitude	West Longitude	Felt Area square km	Maximum Intensity	Magnitude	Nuttli Number (refo 1)	Authority Source	Comments
				H	M	S								
1 Kenosha	1899	Oct	12	--			42° 34'	87° 50'	--	II	3.0	1212	1,3,7,8	
2 Marinette	1905	Mar	13	22	30		45° 08'	87° 40'	--	V	3.8	1302	1,2,3,4,7,8	Given as Menominee, Mi
3 Shorewood	1906	Apr	22	--			43° 03'	87° 55'	--	II	3.0	1335	1,3,4,7,8	a
4 Milwaukee	1906	Apr	24	--			43° 03'	87° 55'	--	III	--	n.r.	3,7,8	a (duplicate of 3)
5 Marinette	1907	Jan	10	--			45° 08'	87° 40'	--	III	--	n.r.	3,7,8	icequake
6 Beloit	1909	May	26	08	42		42° 30'	89° 00'	800,000	VII	5.1	1426	1,3,5,8,9	b
7 Madison	1914	Oct	07	15	00		43° 05'	89° 23'	--	IV	3.8	1536	1,3,4,7,8	
8 Madison	1916	May	31	16	45		43° 05'	89° 21'	--	II	3.0	1573	1,3,4,7,8	2 light shocks
9 Fond du Lac	1922	Jul	07	--			43° 47'	88° 29'	--	V	3.6	1733	1,3,4,7,8	
10 Madison	1931	Oct	18	15	12		43° 05'	89° 23'	--	III	3.4	2172	1,3,4,7,8	
11 Stoughton	1933	Dec	06	23	55		42° 54'	89° 15'	1,200	IV	3.5	2242	1,3,4,7,8	
12 Dubuque	1938	Nov	07	23	30		42° 30'	90° 43'	--	II	3.0	2472	1,3,4,6,7,8	
"	"	"	08	01	15		"	"	--	"	"	2473	"	
"	"	"	"	03	30		"	"	--	"	"	2474	"	
13 Thunder Mountain	1943	Feb	09	17	21		45° 11'	88° 10'	--	III	3.2	2700	1,3,4,7,8	c
14 Milwaukee	1947	May	06	15	27		43° 00'	87° 55'	8,000	V	4.0	2859	1,3,4,7,8	
15 Lake Mendota	1948	Jan	15	11	40		43° 09'	89° 41'	--	IV	3.8	2892	1,3,4,7,8	icequake
16 Oostburg	1956	Jul	18	15	30		43° 37'	87° 45'	--	IV	3.8	3254	1,3,4,7,8	d
"	"	"	"	17	00		"	"	--	"	"	3255	"	
17 South Milwaukee	1956	Oct	13	--			42° 55'	87° 52'	--	IV	3.8	3266	1,3,4,7,8	a
18 Beaver Dam	1957	Jan	08	10	00		43° 32'	88° 48'	--	IV	3.6	3276	1,3,4,7,8	
19 Bill Cross Rapids	1979	Feb	28	12	04	55.2	45° 13'	89° 46'	instru- mental	--	<1.0 MbLg	new	10	e
20 Madison	1981	Jan	09	09	15		43° 05'	87° 55'	local	II	--	new	--	f
21 Madison	1981	Mar	13	a.m.			43° 05'	87° 55'	local	II	--	new	--	g
22 Oxford	1981	Jun	12	10	30		43° 52'	89° 39'	local	IV-V	--	new	--	h

Comments:

- a. The San Francisco earthquake of April 18, 1906, occurred several days before. Possibility that aftershocks from that earthquake or misinterpretation of tremors were reported as Wisconsin earthquakes. 4 may be a duplicate of 3.
- b. Commonly attributed to South Beloit, Il., or Aurora, Il. Time corrected to Udden and Milwaukee Journal. May have been at least three strong aftershocks felt in Madison.
- c. Light local shock was felt in the vicinity of Thunder Mountain and Thunder Lake. Similar shocks had been felt there in previous years.
- d. Felt strongly at shoreline, but weakly inland. Possibly calving bluff or rip-rap. Tremors continued for several hours.
- e. Signals were received at the Mellen, Rhinelander and Aurora Stations from 1979 through May 1980. Only 2/28/79 was simultaneously recorded at two stations. See Van Horn (1980, p. 78) for discussion.
- f. Felt on top floor of three-story building in University of Wisconsin campus area.
- g. Felt on ground floor in industrial building on east side of Madison.
- h. Water tower swaying, reported by plant superintendent at Oxford Correctional Facility (Milwaukee Journal, September 13, 1981).
- n.r. not reported by Nuttli (ref. 1).

Sources:

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