

Christchurch (New Zealand) Earthquake

An earthquake is the shaking of the Earth's crust. Approximately 15 major earthquakes occur each year around the world. Their effects can be devastating.

When Did It Happen?

The earthquake struck the city of Christchurch, New Zealand (Aotearoa) on 22nd February 2011 at 12:51 p.m.

Where Did It Happen?

The earthquake happened on a boundary between the Pacific and the Australian plates, 6 miles (10km) south-east of Christchurch.



What Happened?

It was a 6.3 magnitude earthquake, with a shallow focus area at only 3 miles (5km) deep. The earthquake lasted for about ten seconds. In the first week after the earthquake, there were more than 361 aftershocks.

Other Facts

Earthquake-proof homes were built. Some of the features included: backup power generators, house frames made out of steel and raised concrete foundations above ground level.

Smartphone apps were introduced to enable homeowners to monitor tremors and the size of future potential earthquakes.

What Were the Effects?

Infrastructure	Social and Economic	Response
Schools were closed for two weeks.	185 people were killed and over 2,000 people were injured.	Over £3 million in aid was provided from around the world.
Over 50% of the city's buildings were damaged.	Water supplies were contaminated from damaged pipes.	300 Australian police officers were flown into the country.
Train and bus services were disrupted.	Businesses were closed for long periods of time.	Pop-up hospitals were built.
Water and sewer pipes were damaged.	10,000 homes and buildings were demolished.	Temporary housing and toilets were provided.

