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AMCHITKA BLAST REGISTERS
7.0 ON UM SEISMOGRAPH

MISSOULA--

The underground nuclear test on Amchitka Island Saturday registered slightly more than 7.0 on the Richter scale on the seismograph at the University of Montana, according to Dr. Gary Crosby, UM seismologist monitoring the blast.

The recording was made at 3:10 MST Saturday (Nov. 6) at the UM Earthquake Laboratory in the basement of the new Science Complex. The laboratory serves as a collection point for 15 seismometers set up in different parts of Northwest Montana and Idaho.

No apparent damage was reported in Montana, although ^a seismic shock wave registering 6.5 or larger is considered to be a major shock wave. Despite predictions by opponents, reportedly the blast caused no destructive earthquakes, tidal waves or radiation leakage.

Dr. Crosby, a UM professor of geology, said there were about 35 persons on hand for the reading of the shock wave, which took approximately 10 minutes to reach western Montana.

"Our instruments will record a quake of 2.5-3.0 on the Richter scale and a shock of 4.5 has potential for damage," Dr. Crosby said. "A quake more than 8.0 only occurs about once in a century in the United States," he added.

"The Richter scale is an empirical relationship between the amount of energy released and a number expressing the size of the earthquake," Dr. Crosby explained.

Based on the data from previous underground tests, Dr. Crosby said that he expects the background level of minor earthquakes to pick up, but declined to make any further predictions.

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