

Worldcue® Alert
Severity: Critical Alert

Environment: UPDATE 3: Rescue operations continue in north-central Nepal after May 12 earthquake. Damage from tremor in Kathmandu minor; many residents sleeping outdoors.

The locations affected by this alert are:

- ? Nepal
- ? Lucknow
- ? Patna
- ? Varanasi
- ? Lhasa
- ? Kanpur

This alert began 13 May 2015 16:04 GMT and is scheduled to expire 15 May 2015 23:59 GMT.

Updated Information

Rescue operations continue in the wake of the magnitude-7.3 earthquake that struck midday May 12, though initial assessments indicate that casualties and damage are much less severe than from the magnitude-7.8 quake that struck April 25. The epicenter of the May 12 temblor was about 18 km (11 miles) southeast of Kodari, Sindhupalchok district; damage appears to be most severe in Sindhupalchok and Dolakha districts. As of midday May 13, the death toll in Nepal from the May 12 quake had reached 76, with the majority of the fatalities in Dolakha; another 2,374 people sustained injuries. The casualty toll will likely rise as rescue workers reach isolated villages, some of which suffered not only from the earthquake, but also from ensuing landslides and avalanches.

Damage in Kathmandu from the May 12 tremor appears to be minor, with only a small number of buildings collapsing. Regardless, the quake has sparked new panic among residents and prompted many to return to tent cities, due to fears that further aftershocks could bring their homes and businesses down. Many shop operators will likely attempt to operate outdoors in the coming days, until tensions from the latest quake ease. Traffic congestion is severe in much of the city; as debris has yet to be cleared from some secondary routes in the wake of both the April 25 and May 12 tremors, navigating city streets remains difficult in some areas. Mobile phone service in Kathmandu was overwhelmed in the aftermath of the May 12 temblor, but continues to function; authorities are urging residents to use SMS if phone calls are not getting through.

Ongoing aftershocks are likely, and could cause more landslides, intensifying damage and hindering rescue operations. Relief workers will likely continue operations in Sindhupalchok and Dolakha into late May, as authorities clear clogged roads and open access to isolated areas.

Outside of Nepal, the quake caused shaking in much of India, Tibet, and parts of Bangladesh and Afghanistan. In India, shaking was felt as far south as Chennai; residents of Delhi briefly panicked after tremors continued for about 30 seconds in the metropolitan area. Some damage has been reported in states bordering Nepal, particularly Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, where at least 16 people were killed. The earthquake also led to one death in Tibet.

Advice

Prepare for continuing aftershocks. Vacate obviously damaged buildings and move to the nearest accessible open space away from multistoried structures. Do not attempt to drive anywhere in the Kathmandu Valley until local authorities clear roads and ensure that bridges are structurally intact. Carry identification and move about in groups for security reasons. Obtain food and bottled water if possible. Contact your diplomatic mission for emergency assistance.

Resources

Tribhuvan International Airport: www.tiairport.com.np

Nepal Meteorological Forecasting Division: www.mfd.gov.np/

Related Advice: [Personal safety during earthquakes.](#)

Related Advice: [Information on how to identify and minimize the threat of landslides.](#)