1906 Santa Rosa Earthquake Fact Sheet

• April 18, 1906, 5:12 AM  45 second duration  7.8 Richter magnitude scale (estimated)

• Death count: 82 certain, 85 very likely
  25 killed or fatally injured at hotels

• Destruction: About 7 to 8 blocks were destroyed – 4 to 5 blocks by fire (Carnegie report)
  The courthouse and surrounding blocks on each side
  Six blocks along Fourth street, from Wilson to D street
  20-25 houses collapsed or knocked off foundations – many chimneys cracked or fell

• Fire: About 40% of damage downtown was by fire (Carnegie report)
  Firefighting hampered by debris in street, broken cast iron water lines
  “...all that saved the town was the absence of wind” (Jessie Loranger letter)

• Rural Cemetery:
  “The earthquake wrought devastation among the tombs and monuments in the grave yard. Most of them are down.” (interim newspaper, April 21) SRRC was “badly wrecked” but not as bad as Sebastopol Cemetery, where 90 percent of tombstones toppled (Carnegie report)

• Myth: “Santa Rosa had comparatively more damage and/or more deaths than San Francisco”
• Fact: Carnegie report underestimated Santa Rosa's size, which exaggerated scope of disaster

San Francisco has documented 3000+ related deaths
Over 80% of San Francisco destroyed by the earthquake and fire
Most of San Francisco's population was homeless or displaced, up to 2 years

Santa Rosa's relief effort lasted 17 days with no refugee camps or emergency housing
Temporary merchant/municipal center established at Mendocino and 5th within 5 days
Downtown commercial district operating again within 4 days, many at same locations
Electricity restored within week
No fires in Santa Rosa residential areas
Much Santa Rosa damage linked to poor construction – weak mortar, no foundations

According to the USGS, shaking in Santa Rosa was worse than San Francisco

The Agnews State Hospital campus in Santa Clara had comparatively more fatalities than either city, with 11 percent of staff and patients killed (118 of 1075)

MORE INFORMATION: http://wp.me/p6YJG-6u CONTACT: je@comstockhouse.org July 8, 2016