

## 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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)