

Frequently Asked Questions – Regarding the recent earthquakes near Gladstone, NJ

Question 1: I'm wondering if an earthquake just occurred in our area, or there is something else going on?

- To identify if an earthquake was detected in our region, you can check the U.S. Geological Survey website at the below link.
- <https://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/map/?extent=39.07464,-76.8988&extent=41.77131,-71.48804>
- I don't know how long it takes to register an earthquake on average, but yesterday's earthquake registered within 15 minutes of when I felt the earthquake. So pretty fast.

Question 2: How big was this earthquake, and should I expect to have damage?

- Bottomline. It is NOT LIKELY that you have significant damage.
- Below is the list of recorded earthquakes we had since the morning of 5-APR:
 - 5-APR-2024 10:23am - magnitude 4.8 (depth=4.7km)
 - 5-APR-2024 5:59pm - magnitude 3.8 (depth=9.4km)
 - 6-APR-2024 6:46am - magnitude 2.5 (depth=9.0km)
- Given OUR largest magnitude of 4.8, FEMA's guide on earthquakes states the description of typical shaking and damage to be:
 - "Felt by nearly everyone; many awakened. Some dishes, windows broken. Unstable objects overturned. Pendulum clocks may stop."
 - When an earthquake is greater than magnitude 5.0... that is when damage to a building/home is typical, and even then, the damage is usually slight (ex- fallen plaster)
 - Additionally, we are approximately 10-15 miles from the epicenter of all these earthquakes, so our intensity will be slightly less.

Question 3: What should I do if I suspect my home/property has been damaged?

- 1) You can review the "FEMA Earthquakes - Home Safety Checklist" that helps one to check their home. This checklist is posted to the Long Hill Township Website News Feed along with this document. This checklist can be used by a property owner, or a hired professional, to check for things most commonly damaged by an earthquake.
- 2) FEMA provides a guide for all aspects of earthquake safety called "Earthquake Safety at Home". This covers aspects of preparations, what to do in the middle of an earthquake, recovery after the earthquake. I don't believe this level of information is typically needed for our area, but if you want to read more, you can find it here:
 - https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-08/fema_earthquakes_fema-p-530-earthquake-safety-at-home-march-2020.pdf
- 3) You can visit FEMA's ready.gov website that has additional resources about earthquakes here:

- <https://www.ready.gov/earthquakes>

Question 4: Is there a place to report damage if my property was damaged?

If you did have damage from the earthquake, Long Hill Township's Office of Emergency Management is interested in hearing about it.

**** This is not mandatory to be reported, but it is helpful to know the extent of damage in the town, and although... the chances are low in this case... it could lead to individuals and local government having the ability to get financial assistance from FEMA. ****

Key points of Information to provide are:

Name

Address

Phone Number

Brief Description of the damage (ex- sheetrock on wall cracked, foundation cracked, etc)

You can make a report through:

Phone Call at: 908-647-6131

Email at: oemcoordinator@longhillnj.gov

Question 5: Foreshocks, aftershocks - what's the difference?

- Foreshocks are earthquakes that precede larger earthquakes in the same location. An earthquake cannot be identified as a foreshock until after a larger earthquake in the same area occurs.
- Aftershocks are smaller earthquakes that occur in the same general area during the days to years following a larger event or "mainshock."
- For more in-depth details, you can read more at: <https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/foreshocks-aftershocks-whats-difference>