

Learning from Earthquakes

More from the Shumagin Seismic Gap

Last month's newsletter reported on the magnitude 6.9 quake that shook Shumagin, Alaska, on May 13, 1993. Ongoing monitoring of the aftershock locations indicate that the central 40 km of the seismic gap ruptured. This is probably not the largest gap-filling earthquake of which this segment of the plate boundary is capable. Six seismographs, on loan from RAMP (Rapid Array Monitoring Program) of IRIS were installed by staff of the Alaska Earthquake Information Center (Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska, Fairbanks and USGS, Fairbanks) to monitor the aftershock sequence. Three additional strong-motion instruments were also installed.

The main shock and five of its largest aftershocks which occurred between May 13 and May 25 were recorded on at least one digital strong-motion instrument located at Sand Point, Alaska, about 70 to 80 km NNW of the quake's epicenter. The Sand Point strong-motion station consists of a Kinematics SSA-1 recorder with remote access by phone and is operated by the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory (LDEO) as part of NCEER's (National Center for Earthquake Engineering Research) Strong-Motion Instrumentation Program. The phone-retrieved data indicate that the main shock reached a peak horizontal acceleration of just 0.07g, with shaking above 0.01g lasting for about 40 seconds. The May 25, $M \approx 6.2$, aftershock had a shorter duration, about 20 seconds, but a slightly higher peak acceleration of about 0.08g. To obtain the NCEER/LDEO digital strong-motion data contact Noel Barstow at LDEO 914-365-8477, e-mail: nceer@lamont.ldeo.columbia.edu. For additional information on current seismicity in the Shumagin Gap, call AEIC at 907-474-7320.

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