

Lessons from Panama's powerful earthquake

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Summary

Prensa Latina reviews the aftermath of the 9 October quake: damage in central provinces, over a hundred aftershocks, power cuts in Chiriquí and elsewhere, and no reported deaths.

Details (summary of the article)

Prensa Latina reports that the strong quake, attributed by the Institute of Geosciences to the Azuero-Soná fault system, shook Panama for around 40 seconds and was followed by more than a hundred aftershocks, some above magnitude 5 and 6. Preliminary assessments point to material damage mainly in Coclé, Veraguas, Herrera and Los Santos, with power interruptions reported by Naturgy in Chiriquí, Herrera, Los Santos, Veraguas, Coclé and parts of Panamá Oeste, while Ensa restored 17 circuits in Colón. President José Raúl Mulino travelled to Penonomé, promised inspections of hospitals, health centres and prisons, and announced shipments of water, food and nappies; he urged calm and warned against spreading unverified information. No deaths had been reported at the time, though information was still missing from some comarca communities. A USGS estimate cited by La Estrella de Panamá puts preliminary economic losses at between 1 and 10 percent of GDP. Panama Canal operations and the Cobre Panamá mine continued normally, and Tocumen airport resumed flights after a temporary halt. Authorities must still inspect bridges, roads and canal-related infrastructure for non-obvious damage in the coming days; the quake came just before the national evacuation drill set for Monday 12 October.

Original (es)

Panamá: lecciones de un potente sismo

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