

Experts: aftershocks of the 9 October quake may last weeks or months

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Summary

La Prensa reports that 530 aftershocks have followed the magnitude 7.5 earthquake of 9 October, and seismic specialists say such activity can continue for weeks or months across Panama.

Details (summary of the article)

La Prensa reports that five days after the magnitude 7.5 earthquake of 9 October, Néstor Luque of the University of Panama's Institute of Geosciences counts 530 aftershocks, and the number is still rising. Luis Pinzón, a seismic engineering researcher quoted via Senacyt, explains that aftershocks are a normal consequence of a large quake and may continue for days, weeks or even months, depending on how the fault behaves. He stresses there is no scientific way to predict when the next one will come or how strong it will be, so people should stay alert without panicking. Residents should watch for new significant cracks, falling material or visible deformation in buildings; if any appear, leave the area and get a technical inspection before going back in, because weakened structures are more at risk in aftershocks. The article also explains the difference between magnitude (energy released) and intensity (how it was felt locally), which is why the same quake caused heavy damage in some communities and was barely felt in others, depending on distance, soil type and building quality. Instruments at USMA measured peak ground accelerations of 0.04 g in Panama City and 0.06 g in David, Chiriquí. Senacyt notes Panama has only about 15 researchers and technicians working in earthquake-related fields, and the event has highlighted the need to strengthen research and prevention.

Original (es)

¿Hasta cuándo seguirán las réplicas en Panamá?

Las réplicas del terremoto del 9 de octubre continúan generando inquietud entre los panameños. Un especialista explica por qué ocurren y cuánto tiempo pueden prolongarse.