

# ANCHORAGE – AMERICA'S EARTHQUAKE HOT SPOT

- The north western US state of Alaska is separated from the other mainland states by Canada
- Alaska is very active geologically and earthquakes occur often
- Of the thousands of earthquakes of magnitude 3 and higher that occur in the US each year, the vast majority occur in the state of Alaska
- The US's largest earthquake – a magnitude 9.2 that struck March 28, 1964 – occurred in Alaska
- Alaska has many entries on the worldwide list of 'significant earthquakes' published by the US Geological Society
- Alaska has experienced two earthquakes of magnitude 7 or greater in 2018
- One such earthquake occurred on the 30 November, 2018, with its epicentre 12km north of the city of Anchorage. The tremors were felt by many in the area

## WHAT ANCHORAGE TEENAGERS THINK ABOUT EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS\*

### 1) YOU LIVE ON AN ACTIVE FAULT LINE. DO YOU EVER WORRY THAT THERE WILL BE AN EARTHQUAKE SOMETIME SOON?

"I haven't thought that much about earthquakes in the past, but recently there was a huge 7.0 magnitude earthquake in Anchorage. I now think of earthquakes a lot more and take them much more seriously."

"Living on an active fault line was something that never went through my head, until I started studying them. Now I worry when an earthquake will happen next."

### 2) THE LAST EARTHQUAKE IN YOUR REGION WAS ON 30 NOVEMBER, 2018. HOW MUCH DEVASTATION DID IT CAUSE?

"It was a 7.0 magnitude earthquake. It caused much devastation in our city and around Alaska. Schools were closed for over a week, and some schools could not re-open this school year. Many businesses had to close because of the destruction. The roads split apart. Many gas leaks also occurred, and water pipes burst."

"There were many impacts including damage to homes and roads, flooding and gas leaks. Some houses were very damaged. However, most were not. Schools in Anchorage and the Mat-Su Valley were closed for over a week."

### 3) WHAT ADVICE IS GIVEN TO YOU, SHOULD AN EARTHQUAKE HAPPEN?

"When an earthquake occurs, we are instructed to get under our desks and hold on to the table legs. Other advice is to go outside or head to a place where nothing can fall on top of you."

"When an earthquake happens, we should get under the nearest table or desk and hold on to a leg with one hand, while protecting our neck and head with our other hand."

### 4) DO YOU THINK THE CITY AUTHORITIES ARE DOING ENOUGH TO KEEP PEOPLE SAFE FROM EARTHQUAKES?

"Yes. Schools and buildings that were unharmed were offering areas for people to stay. That was for after the earthquake struck. I believe that contractors are also strengthening buildings and making them prepared for when earthquakes struck."

"Building codes have been upgraded since the 1964 Good Friday Earthquake. After the road split apart in the 2018 earthquake the city rebuilt the roads within 72 hours. Our city did the best they could to keep Anchorage up and running."

*\*These responses came from students at Hanshew Middle School in Anchorage, Alaska*

