

## This lecture

- Dams
- Buildings
- Proper response to a quake
- Real odds in a quake

## Manmade hazards

- Certain structures present a hazard to neighboring or nearby buildings, including
  - Dams and reservoirs
  - Dikes and levees
  - Water tanks
  - Neighboring buildings

## Dams and reservoirs

- Dams are structures most hazardous to populated areas
- Heavily populated urban areas like LA and SF contain many small reservoirs within city limits

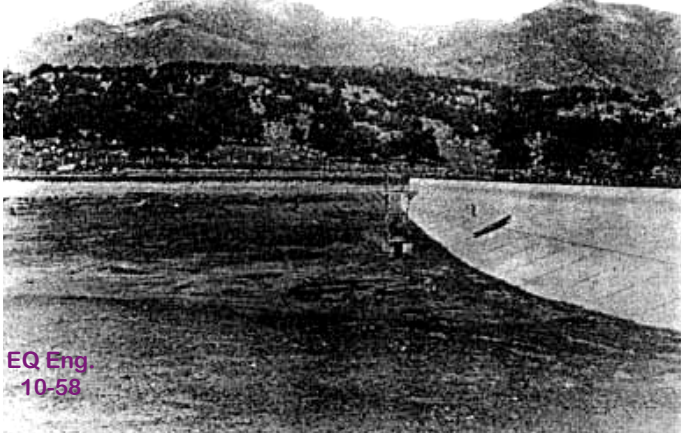
## Dam collapses

- Sheffield Dam in Santa Barbara
- St. Francis Dam near Saugus
- Baldwin Hills Reservoir
- Van Norman Dam near San Fern.

## Sheffield Dam

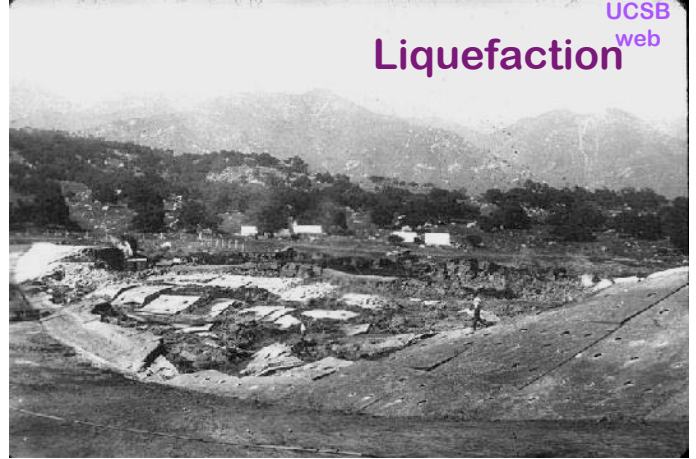
- Sheffield Dam failed in Santa Barbara earthquake of 1925 (M7)
  - 250 m long, 5 m high, 30 million gallons
  - 100 m of dam liquefied and washed down
  - flooded lower Santa Barbara

## Before filling



## Ex-dam after quake

UCSB  
web  
Liquefaction



## St. Francis Dam

Keller, 3-24



## St. Francis

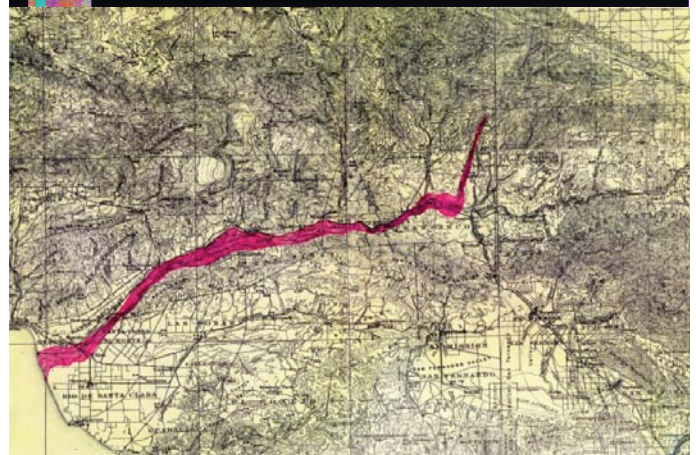
- St. Francis Dam near Saugus, CA
  - Failed March 12, 1928 at night
  - 500 people killed, \$10 million is damage
- Problem complicated
  - Rocks softened when wet
  - Fault zone carried water
    - Dam sprung a leak
  - Then softened rock slipped, dam failed

## St. Francis after failure

Keller, 3-24



## Flooded area





## Mulholland's downfall

- Chronicled in movie "Chinatown"
- Built the dam through intrigue
- Just hours before collapse
  - He visited dam
  - Saw water streaming out
  - Advised ignoring the problem
- Crucified after failure
- Hermit for rest of life



Mulholland told the Coroner's Inquest that he "only envied those who were killed"

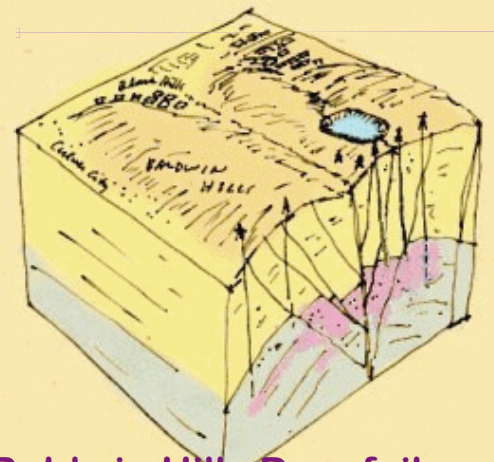
•He went on to say "Don't blame anyone else, you just fasten it on me. If there was an error in human judgment, I was the human".



Coroner's inquest

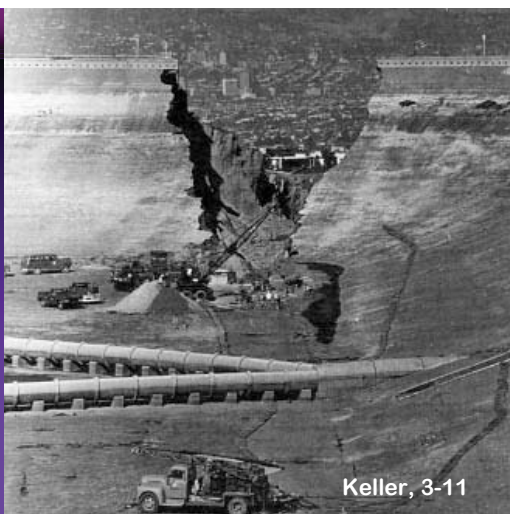
## Another dam collapse

- Baldwin Hills Reservoir
  - December 14, 1963
  - failed after weakening by several years of creep on Newport-Inglewood fault
  - Constructed in 1951, but built on the fault zone responsible for 1933 Long Beach earthquake
  - Claimed 5 lives despite quick evacuation of area below reservoir, 2 hours of warning, \$15 million in property damage
  - Fault creep may have been related to withdrawal of oil underneath from 1923 to 1963



Baldwin Hills Dam failure

Breach in dam

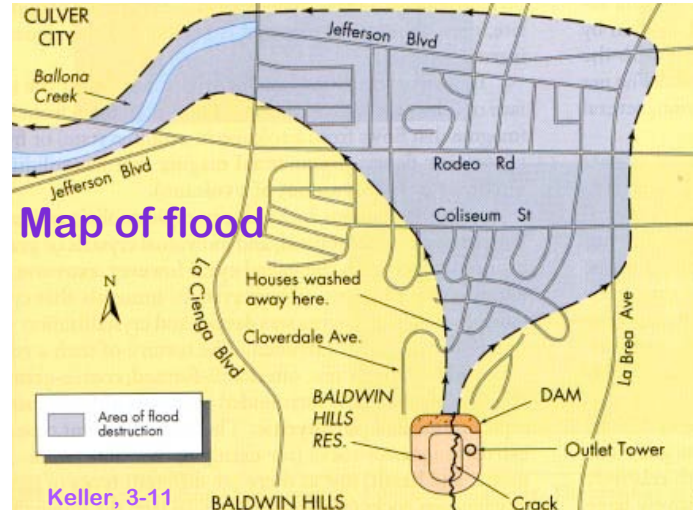


Keller, 3-11

View of dam after failure

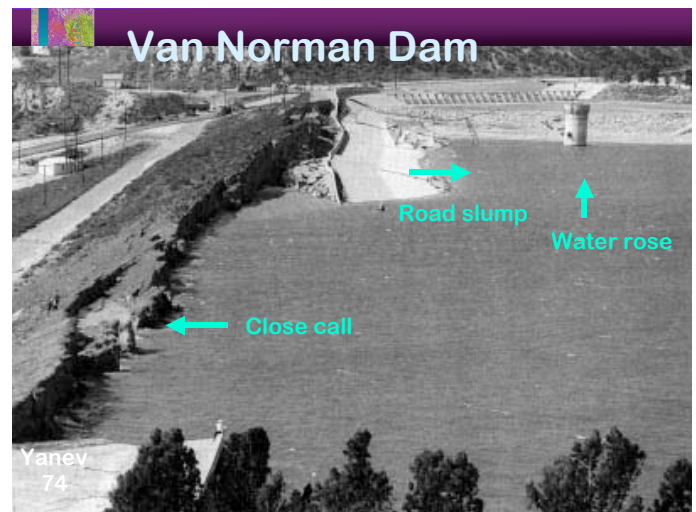


Keller, 3-11



## Near collapse of dam

- Lower Van Norman Dam in San Fernando earthquake of 1971
  - Constructed in 1915, reinforced several decades later
  - Quake shook upstream surface into reservoir, left only 5 ft margin above water
  - Threatened 12 square miles with 80,000 sleeping residents



## Tanks

- Heavy and may be old and weak
  - Thin-walled and flimsy
- May collapse during quakes
- Several kinds
  - Water
  - Oil
  - Wine



Nogales Bay, 1906

## Ex-elevated water tank 1952 Kern County tank



100' tall, 100,000 gallon

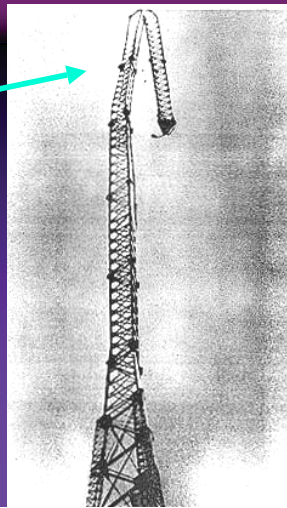
Yanev, 76



## Seattle radio station KJR

Olympia quake of 1949

EQ Eng, 192



## Neighboring buildings

- Two adjacent buildings usually respond to earthquake vibrations in different ways and therefore may pound against each other
  - especially bad for higher building at roof level of lower one
- Or one may fall on another
- Or corner buildings may flop out

## Santa Cruz 1989

Yanev, 78



## Mexico City 1985

Yanev, 80



## Hit by neighbor's bricks

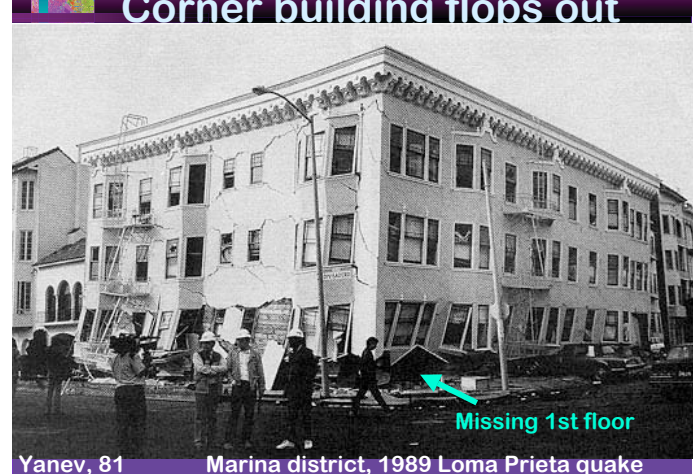
Yanev, 79



## Corner building flops out

Yanev, 81

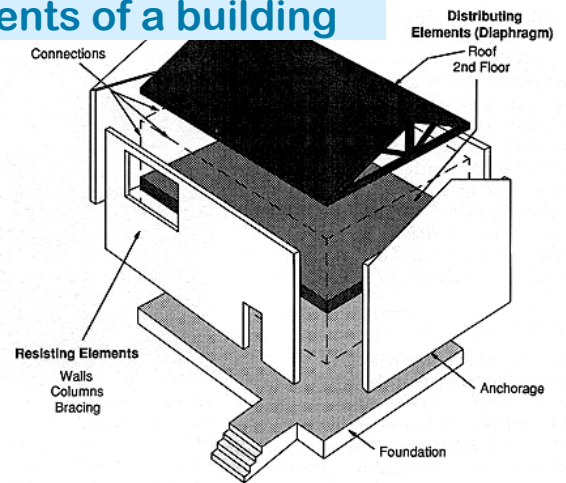
Marina district, 1989 Loma Prieta quake



## Structural components of a building

- **Distributing** elements
  - are horizontal
  - consist of floors and roof
- **Resisting** elements
  - are vertical
  - consist of walls, columns, bracing
- **Foundation**
- **Connections**

## Elements of a building



Yanev, 84

## How do earthquake forces affect buildings?

- Structural elements designed to support **weight**
  - of building, furnishings, occupants
- Therefore, **vertical** forces of earthquake are usually resisted effectively by buildings
- However, lateral bracing needed to resist **horizontal** forces (ground shaking or wind)

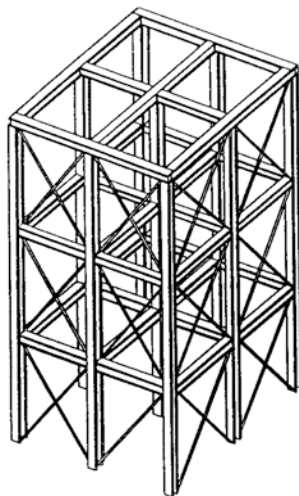
## How bracing reduces lateral motions

Shaking in earthquake



- Reduced lateral motion results in smaller accelerations and less damage to building and contents

## Diagonal bracing



Yanev, 86

## Shear walls being built





## Earthquake resistance

- ★ • Wood frame (and with stucco)
  - ★ • Unreinforced brick
  - Concrete block
  - Reinforced brick
  - ★ • Unreinforced stone and adobe
  - ★ • Steel frame
  - ★ • Concrete frame
  - Concrete shear wall
  - Concrete tilt-up
- Residential
- Commercial

## Wood-frame buildings

- If well-built, safest structures due to lightness and flexibility of wood
- May still have damage if
  - On unstable ground
  - Not well fastened to foundation
  - Inadequate lateral bracing
  - Poorly maintained
  - Weak foundation

## Plywood sheathing



## Concept of soft story

- Large openings reduce shear strength of walls
  - openings include garage, windows, doors
  - often but not always at ground level

## Soft-story construction



## Irreparable



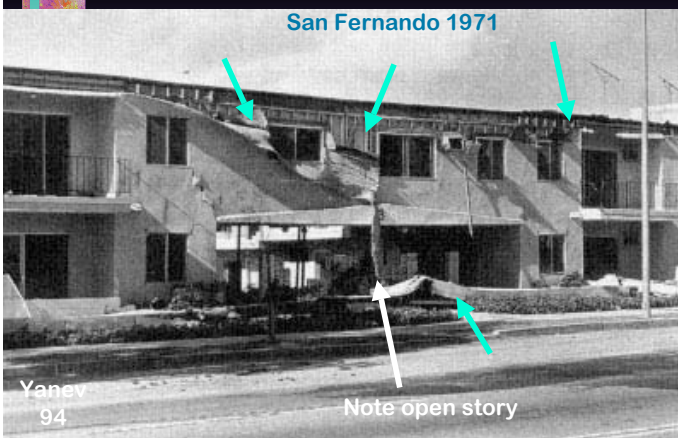
## Wood-frame with stuccoed walls

- Stucco **adds weight**, therefore makes building weaker
- 1 " of stucco strong as 1/4 " plywood
- Stucco damage is around openings where stresses concentrate

## Cracked stucco



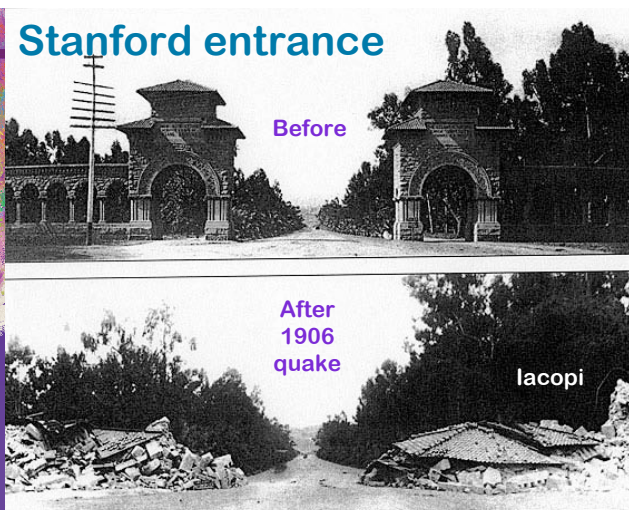
## It wasn't supposed to do this



## Unreinforced brick buildings

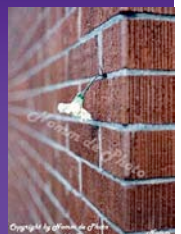
- **Most dangerous** type in earthquake
  - suffer most severe damage
  - cause majority of deaths
- Difficult and costly to repair and strengthen
- 9500 brick buildings in Los Angeles area

## Stanford entrance



## Why are they so dangerous?

- Brick is heavy and inflexible
- So lateral motions create large inertial forces that crack mortar (usually weak).
- Bricks can separate, walls collapse unless wood-frame interior walls can hold up building.





## 1933 Long Beach



## Examples of problems with brick structures

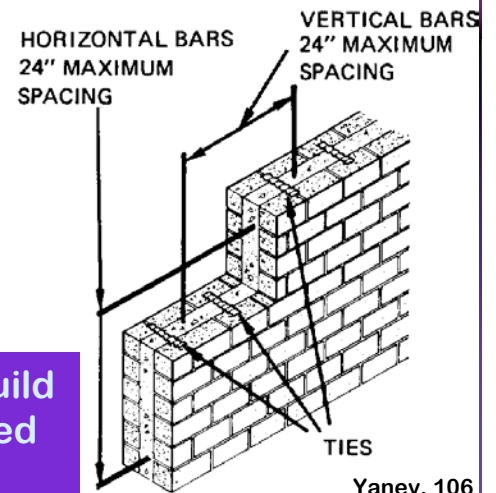
- In 1952 Kern Co. quake, only 1 of 71 brick buildings in Bakersfield survived undamaged
- In 1983 Coalinga quake most of 90 brick buildings removed
- Most of 64 killed in 1971 San Fernando died in collapse of a brick hospital
- Most of deaths in 1989 Loma Prieta not due to collapsed freeway were caused by falling bricks

## Hard to reinforce URM buildings

- Strengthening is inhibited by
  - High retrofit costs
  - Trend toward historical preservation
  - Budget cutting
  - Lack of landlord concern

Not a retrofit strategy

How to build reinforced brick

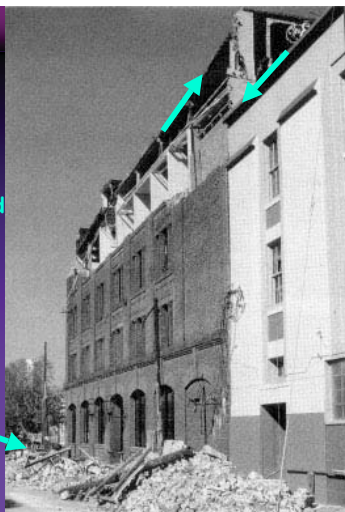


Yanev, 106

## Façade trouble

Note mismatched building heights

5 killed in parked cars



Yanev, 102

## Clay tile disaster

Veteran's Hospital, San Fernando



Yanev, 106

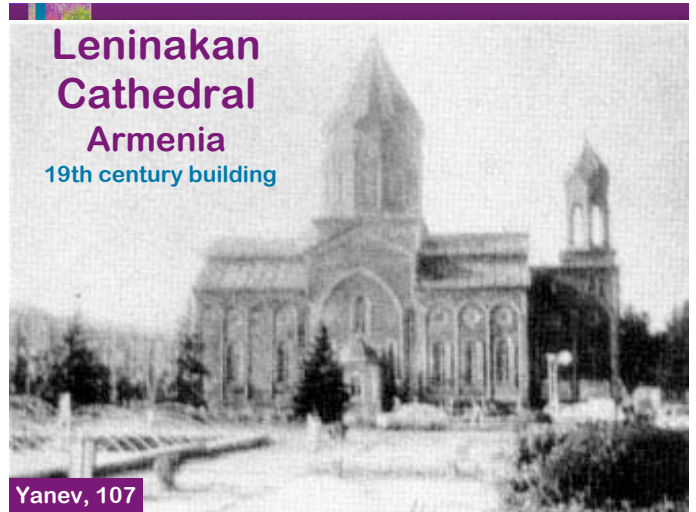
## Unreinforced stone and adobe

- Have practically no strength for resisting lateral forces of earthquakes
- Difficult to strengthen
  - Not feasible except for historical monuments
- Many such buildings in Central and South America, Southern Europe, and Asia
- Responsible for numerous casualties

## Leninakan Cathedral Armenia

19th century building

Yanev, 107



## Cathedral, after 1988 quake

Unreinforced stone

Yanev, 108



## Commercial buildings

- Steel-frame buildings
- Unreinforced masonry
- Concrete-frame
- Concrete shear wall
- Concrete tilt-up

## Welds in steel frames - serious business

- Example: St. John's Medical Plaza in Santa Monica
  - 5-story office space and exam rooms for doctors **built in 1986**
- Damaged in 1994 Northridge quake
  - No visible problems
  - Inside walls, vital welds were broken
  - \$10,000,000 lawsuit

The building,  
a lawyer,  
and some  
bad welds





## The type of frame that has trouble in LA

The San Bernadino Regional Hospital Complex at Colton

LA Times



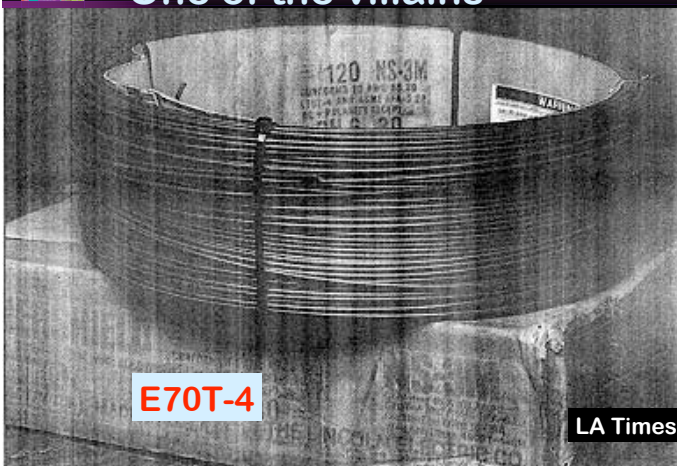
## Larger issue

- Metal used in welding is weak
  - “120” or “E70T-4”
  - This metal has been used across western US for decades
  - 1500 LA buildings use this welding metal
  - 150 had cracks in Northridge
  - Which was only an M7 quake
- Was outlawed in LA in July 1996
  - For new construction only, of course

## One of the villains

E70T-4

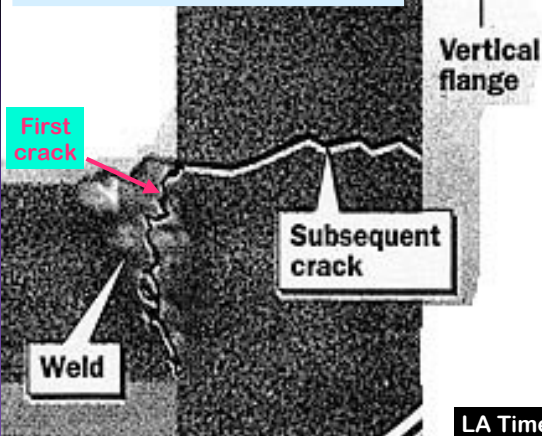
LA Times



## Technical details

- About as strong as other welds
- But,  $\frac{1}{4}$  as resistant to cracks as other welding metals
  - Difficult to measure
- Can be applied from thicker wire at higher temperature
  - So using this metal speeds up welders by 20-30%
  - Which saves money

## Side view of weld



LA Times

## Whose fault was (is) it?

- Company that made it (Lincoln)
  - Know welding material best
- City of LA
  - Style of construction should have been outlawed
- Engineers that designed buildings
  - Their job to make building that works
- Welders who assembled buildings
  - Establishes standards for welding

## History is murky

- Lincoln people claim not to know what metals they tested and when
- University researchers paid by Lincoln also developing faulty memories
- Easy for LA to claim ignorance

## Concrete-frame structures

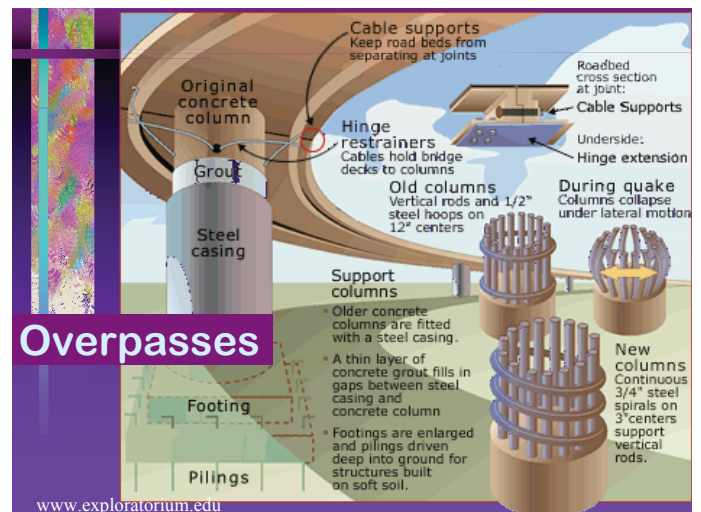
- Second most dangerous structure
- Uses concrete beams and columns in same manner as steel beams are used on steel frame buildings – but more brittle and **much heavier**
- **Cypress freeway** (I-880) had this type of construction
- Many collapsed in **Mexico City** in 1985 M~8 quake (10,000 deaths)

### I-880 viaduct collapse in 1989 Loma Prieta



Yanev, 110

Concrete frame



### Overpasses

www.exploratorium.edu

### Concrete frame building in 1985 Mexico City quake



Yanev, 111

Note soldiers removing debris

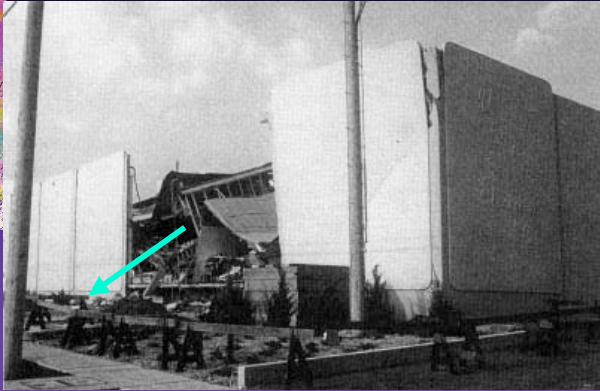
### Parking garage at Cal State Northridge in 1994 Northridge quake



Iacopi,  
119



## Tilt-up building collapsed in 1971 San Fernando quake



Yanev,  
114

## Base isolators

- Decouple motion of building from ground
- Part of major renovation: LA City Hall



<http://www.lacityhall.org/Index.htm>

## Retrofit ingredients

City Hall  
1853 - 1883



- 526 isolators / sliders installed
- 52 viscous dampers installed in the basement and 12 viscous dampers installed in the tower
- 30,000 cubic yards of concrete
- 16 million pounds of reinforcing steel
- 35,000 cubic yards of earth excavated
- \$300 million



## Base isolators

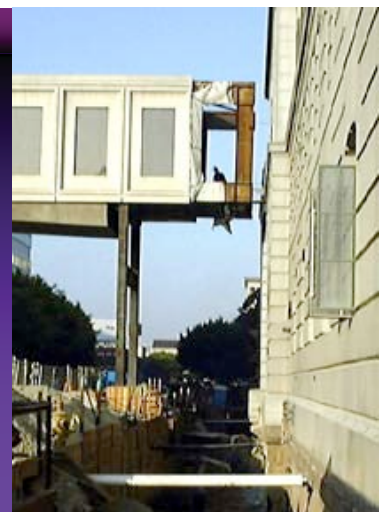


In action - 21" of motion

## Viscous dampers



The  
“moat”  
allows  
building  
to float



Old 10th floor ceiling



New 10th floor ceiling



More steel

## Particular problems

- Foundations
- Cripple walls
- Stilts and pilings
- First-floor garages
- Parapets
- Chimneys

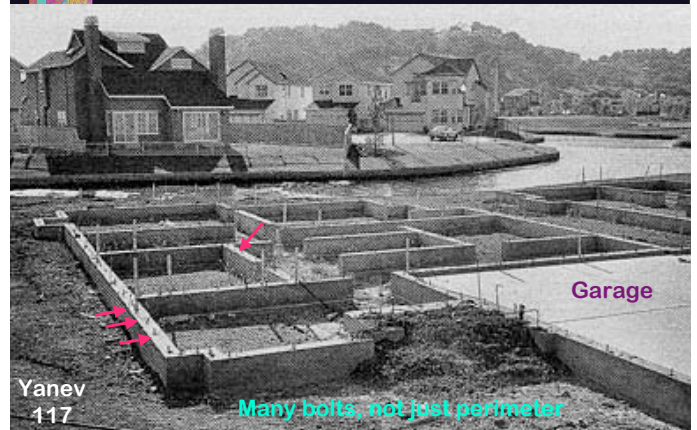


## Older house simply resting on foundation, not attached to it



Yanev 119

## (1) Continuous, tied foundation



Yanev 117

## (2) Mat foundation

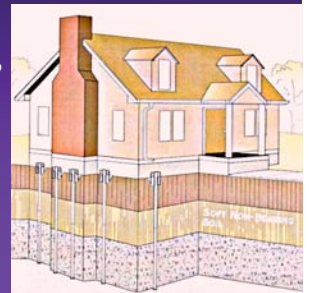
- Reinforced concrete slab resting on soil
- Used on soft soil
  - Stronger than continuous, tied foundation
  - Minimizes hazard from differential soil movements by bridging over pockets of loose soil

Turkey, too much liquefaction



## (3) Drilled pier foundation

- Steel or concrete pilings set deep in ground
- Used on very soft, weak, or unstable soils





## Cripple walls

- Walls of crawl space
  - Short wood walls used to elevate house above ground
  - Access to substructure and utility lines
- Often a weak zone in older house
  - Because a crawl space has only peripheral walls but **no interior walls** to absorb the force of shaking
  - Badly braced cripple walls 2nd most common weakness of older houses
    - Next to chimneys

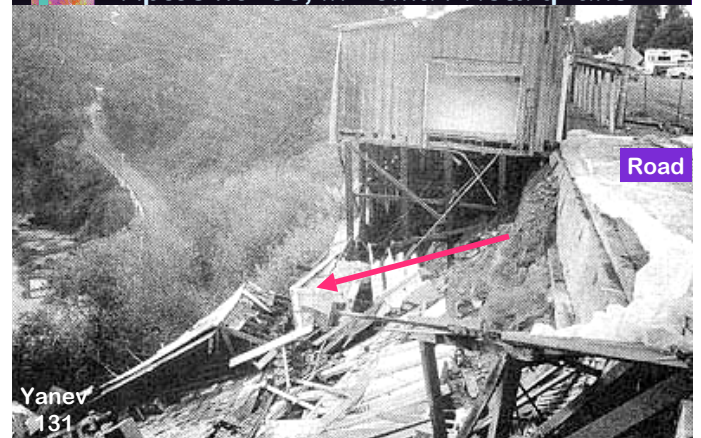
## Cripple wall failure in 1971 San Fernando quake



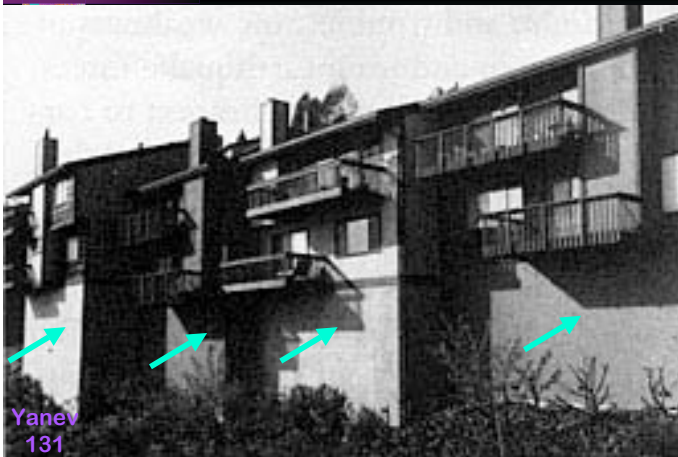
## Great views but houses on stilts need special attention



## Worst case scenario - Aptos house, in Loma Prieta quake



## Row of braced stilts



## First floor garages

- Garage is large room with only three walls
  - Resists shaking less well
- Remedy is shear bracing
  - Plywood or
  - Steel frame

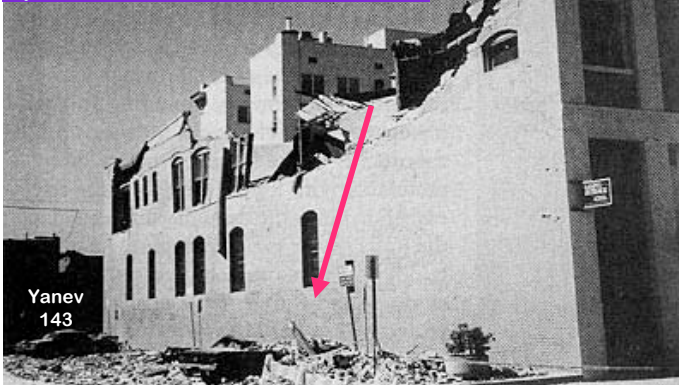




## Parapets

- Masonry parapets often first components to fail in quake
  - Building top undergoes highest amplitude shaking
  - Parapet may be poorly connected or weakened by weathering
  - Often out of sight, so poorly maintained
  - Often located above entrances
  - Danger to people running out of building
- May need to be shortened, anchored, and capped with reinforced concrete

Fallen parapet in downtown Whittier 1987 quake M 5.9



## Chimneys

- Heavy and high up, subject to strong forces during quakes
- Often damaged
  - 75% of chimneys fell in Bay Area in 1906 quake
- Masonry (brick or stone) chimney **pre-1960** is unlikely to be **tied to structure** adequately and may collapse in quake
  - Can fall through roof or break away from house
  - the higher it rises above roof, the greater is hazard
    - Often breaks at roofline



Through the roof

Alhambra house in 1987 Whittier quake



## Remedies for chimneys

- Lay 1 inch thick plywood on roof around chimney
- New prefabricated sheet-metal chimneys are light and strong and will not collapse

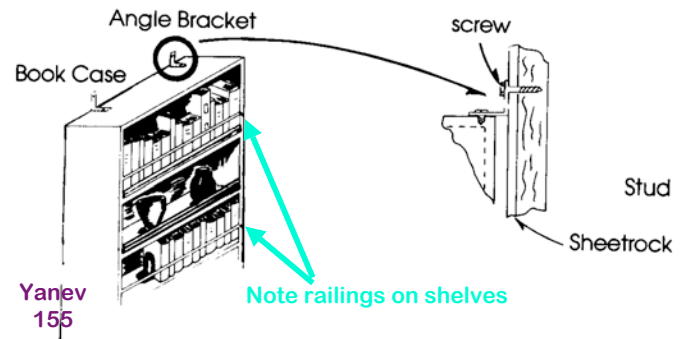




## Rest of lecture

- Interior damage
  - How to be prepared for quakes
  - How to behave during quake
- Insurance
- Risk in earthquakes

## Anchor tall furniture



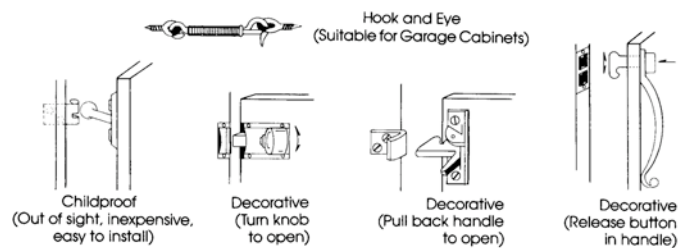
## Kitchens - amazing mess

1971 San Fern, mine looked worse in 1989

Yanév 158



## Use positive latches

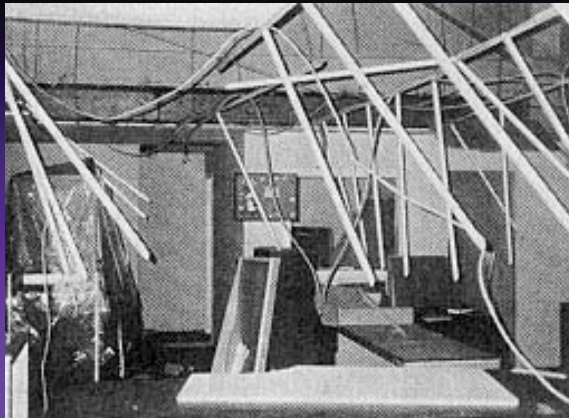


Yanév 157

For fragile valuables and dangerous chemicals

## Places of work

Whittier, 1987



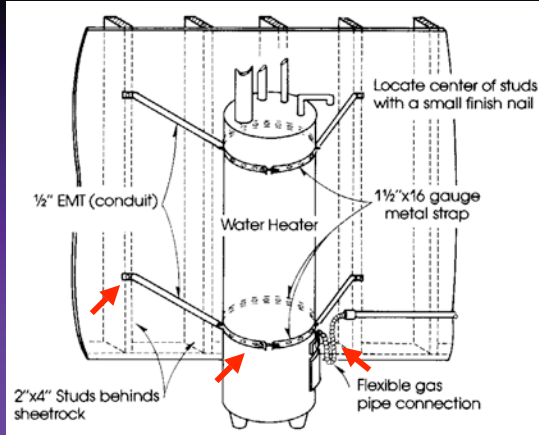
Yanév 159

Ceiling tiles in motion, wires hanging

## Planning for quakes

- Consider safe and dangerous places in your house
- Consider how to get to exits
- Learn how to shut off utilities
- Anchor water heater

## Anchor water heater



Yanev  
153

## Careful quake planning

- School evacuation
- Adequate supplies
- Pets
- Outside communication coordinator
- Skills of neighbors



## Adequate supplies

- Water
  - Water heater and toilet tanks
  - Purification tablets helpful
- Food
  - Usually several day's food around
  - Use refrigerated food first
- First aid kit
  - And a book on first aid
  - Useful to take first aid course as well
- Fire extinguisher
  - Needs periodic checks or servicing



Wax  
Baywatch  
figures

## During quake

- Get under table or go to doorway
- Avoid big windows and chimneys
- Do not rush outdoors or into stairwells

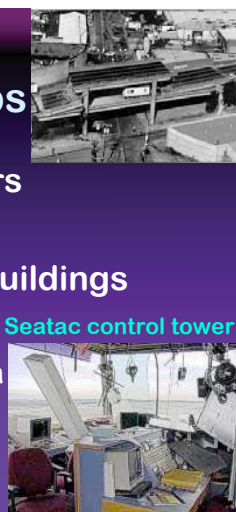
Olive View Hospital  
San Fernando quake,  
3 out of 4 fell over



## Once quake stops

- Walk slowly outdoors
- Stay in open areas
- Only re-enter safe buildings
- If in a car
  - Stop in an open area
  - Stay in car a while

Seatac control tower



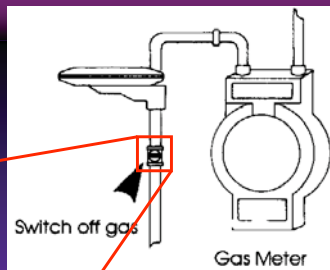
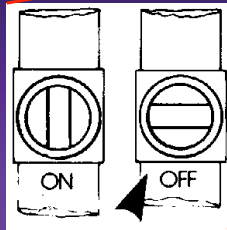
## After quake

- Care for injured people
- Check
  - Gas lines
  - Electric lines
  - Then water lines





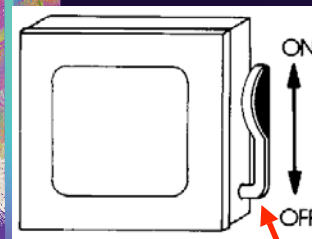
## Gas line shut-off



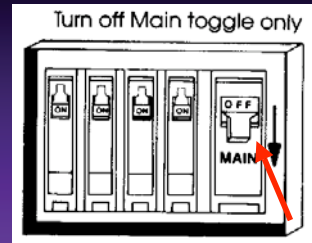
Just takes  
a wrench

Yanev  
152

## Electrical turn-off



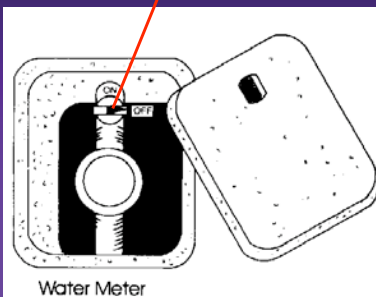
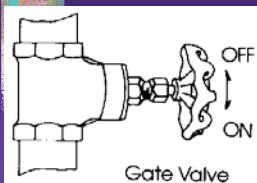
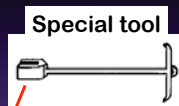
Main fuse box



Circuit breaker

Yanev  
152

## Water shut-off



Yanev  
152

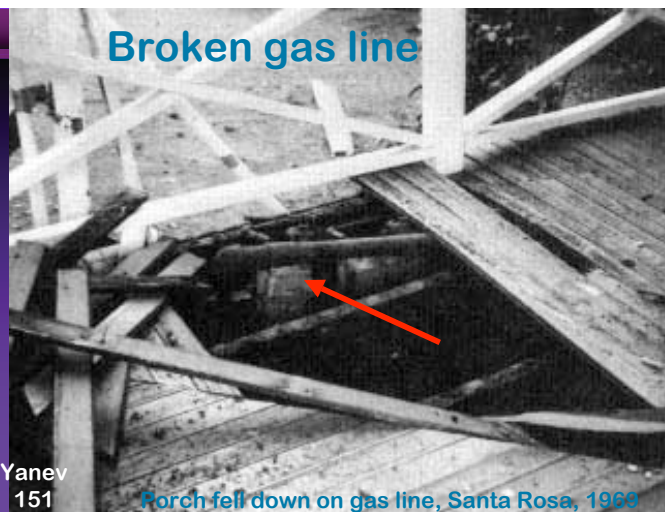
## Then

### • Remember

- Try to minimize phone use
- Tsunamis are possible
- Aftershocks are certain and may be dangerous
- Landslides are possible

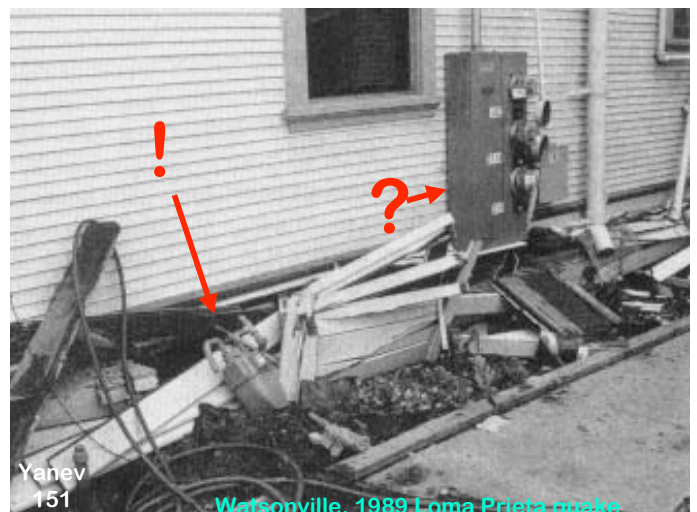


## Broken gas line



Yanev  
151

Porch fell down on gas line, Santa Rosa, 1969



Yanev  
151

Watsonville, 1989 Loma Prieta quake

## Gas leak ignited

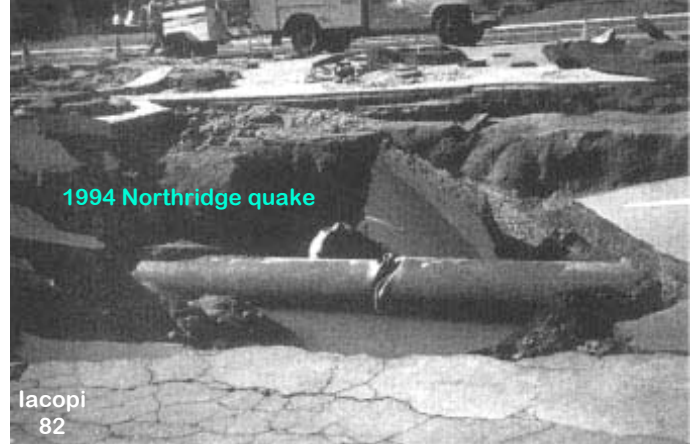
Watsonville, 1989 Loma Prieta quake



Yanev  
151

## Broken water main

1994 Northridge quake



Iacopi  
82

## Disrupted power relay



Iacopi  
104

1971 in Sylmar

## Lingering trauma



Iacopi, 108

## Earthquake insurance

- No simple strategy
- Changing state regulations
- Deductibles
- Vulnerability of insur. co.
- FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) as back-up for insurance
- Should make house safe, in any case



## Real risk from quakes

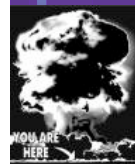
- Standard unit of risk
  - 1 in a million chance of death in a year
  - In other words, a person loses 30 minutes of life expectancy
- Math
  - 30,000,000 sec in a year
  - 1/1,000,000 risk
  - Average person has 60 yr life ahead
  - Thus, cost of 30 minutes on average

$$z^{-2} E=MC^2$$

$$11^{-}/FX <22$$

$$<y(34)/x(34)-0.5$$

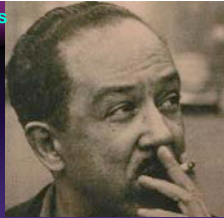
$$10*4 \quad 2+2=4$$





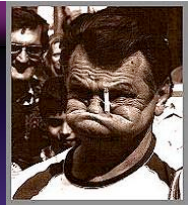
## Example

- Cigarette smoking
  - Each cigarette adds about 1 in a million chance of death
  - So smoking a cigarette shortens life, on average, by half an hour, or several times longer than the cigarette takes to smoke



## 1 in a million risks

- Smoking a cigarette
  - Cancer, heart disease
- Drinking half a bottle of wine
  - Cirrhosis of the liver
- An hour in a coal mine
  - Black lung
- Three hours in a coal mine
  - An accident



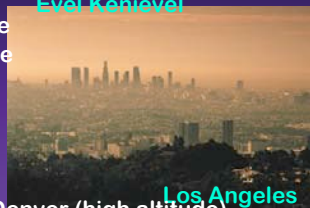
Wilson, 1979

## More

- Air pollution
  - Living 2 days in NY or Boston
- Accidents
  - 6 minutes in a canoe
  - 10 miles on a bicycle
  - 150 miles by car
  - 1000 miles by jet
- Cancers
  - 6000 miles by jet
  - Living 2 months in Denver (high altitude)
  - 2 months in a stone building (radioactivity)
  - 1 chest X-ray



Evel Knievel



Los Angeles

## Still more

### 1 in a million risks

- Cancers
  - Living 2 months with smoker
  - 40 tbsp. peanut butter (aflatoxin B)
  - Miami water for a year (chloroform)
  - 30 cans of diet soda (saccharin)
  - 100 charcoal broiled steaks



## Risk of dying in a year

All natural causes (age 40)	1 in 850
Violence or poisoning	1 in 3300
Traffic accident	1 in 8000
Quake (living in Iran)	1 in 23,000
Train accident	1 in 500,000
Quake (California)	1 in 2,000,000
Lightning	1 in 10,000,000
Windstorm	1 in 10,000,000