

Powerful 8.0 Magnitude Earthquake Kills Over 510 in Peru

Associated Press

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ICA, Peru — Rescuers struggled across a shattered countryside on Thursday to reach victims of a magnitude-8 earthquake that killed at least 510 people. About 1,600 people were reported injured. Peru, which is used to major seismic activity, suffered its worst disaster in 1970. More than 50,000 died in a 7.9 magnitude earthquake when the town of Yungay was buried by mud and ice.

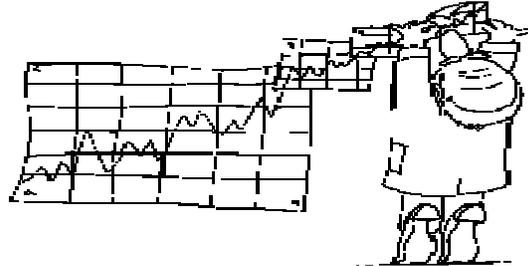


The center of the destruction was in Peru's southern desert, in the oasis city of Ica and the nearby port of Pisco, about 125 miles southeast of the capital, Lima. Pisco's mayor said at least 200 people were buried in the rubble of a church where they had been attending a service. "The dead are scattered by the dozens on the streets," Mayor Juan Mendoza told Lima radio station CPN.

"We don't have lights, water, and communications. Most houses have fallen. Churches, stores, hotels — everything is destroyed."

In Ica, a city of 120,000 near the epicenter, a fourth of the buildings collapsed, at least 57 bodies were brought to the morgue and injured parents and children crowded into a hospital where they waited for attention on cots. Several Ica churches also were damaged, including the historic *Senor de Luren* church where cable news station Canal N said 17 people were killed.

The earthquake's magnitude was raised from 7.9 to 8 on Thursday by the U.S. Geological Survey. At least 15 major aftershocks followed, some as strong as magnitude-6.3. The scope of the destruction became more evident as the frigid dawn broke and thick stone and masonry walls were seen collapsed in piles around the region. The quake knocked out telephone and mobile phone service between the capital and the disaster zone. Electricity also was cut, with power lines drooping dangerously into the streets.



The government rushed police, soldiers, doctors and aid to the area, but traffic was paralyzed by giant cracks and fallen powerlines on the Panamerican Highway south of Lima. Large boulders also blocked Peru's Central Highway to the Andes mountains. Rescue flights from Colombia and Panama were being prepared, but it was not immediately clear when they could arrive. In Chincha, a small town 20 miles (30 kilometers) north of Pisco, an AP Television News camera operator counted 30 bodies under bloody sheets in a patio of the badly damaged hospital. About 200 people were waiting to be treated in walkways and gardens, kept outside for fear that aftershocks could topple the cracked walls.

1. In paragraph form, thoroughly explain the barriers as well as the horrific conditions being encountered by emergency personnel. Additionally, explain the conditions survivors are currently residing in.
2. What is the ratio of casualties to survivors as expressed in three different notations in simplest form?
3. Assuming there were initially 250 buildings in Ica, as a numerical figure how many did not collapse?
4. What percentage of the casualties reported thus far perished via being buried in the rubble?
5. What is the precise distance between Pisco and Lima in meters?
6. In a) paragraph form, b) Venn Diagram, c) table, d) coordinate graph, compare and contrast the differences and similarities between the seismic activity of 1970 and Peru's most recent tragic event.
7. In the passage above, in paragraph form, explain at least five ways using the "Four-Step Reading" poster simplifies understanding of the material. Be specific.
8. In complete sentences, using contextual clues only, explain the meaning of the italicized words: *oasis*, *morgue*, and *masonry*. Additionally, use each in a sentence to demonstrate further comprehension.
9. In paragraph form, explain at least five legitimate and educational purposes behind The Daughtry Times.