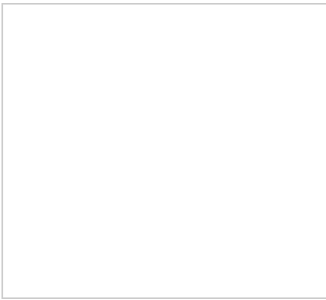


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Mysterious shaking jiggles doors, windows countywide
March 3rd, 2009, 9:42 pm · 316 Comments · posted by Gary Robbins,
science writer-editor



BIZARRE: The USGS reported a 2.2 quake at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday that supposedly shook much of Orange County. But we didn't receive any calls or emails then. The emails didn't start until 9:15 p.m. tonight, almost 12 hours later -- even though much of tonight's shaking came from areas depicted in this map. Seismologist Bob Dollar called the situation "mysterious."

9:30 a.m. Wednesday update

Hundreds of residents across Orange County say they felt an eerie earthquake-like shaking at about 9:15 p.m. Tuesday that mostly moved doors and windows but not the rest of their homes. Some people — especially in south county — also reported hearing a loud boom. Many readers say they were alarmed because they thought someone was trying to break into their homes, especially since there seemed to be a second "rattling" moments later.

The source of the shaking isn't known. There was no space shuttle landing Tuesday at Edwards Air Force Base. Camp Pendleton had some high explosive activities scheduled. However, a base official who lives in San Clemente said he didn't feel anything, and live fire exercises are rarely heard or felt beyond southern-most Orange County. He also said he wasn't sure whether he could come up with a quick answer on Wednesday about whether the Marines were setting off explosives when the event occurred. The newspapers in Oceanside and San Diego, which heavily cover the military, haven't reported similar shaking in their service areas. The National Weather Service says the air was calm Tuesday, with no down bursts.

And Bob Dollar, a seismologist at the U.S. Geological Survey, told me at 11:55 p.m. Tuesday, "We did not record any earthquake tonight that could have caused this kind of shaking around Orange County." Sue Hough, chief of the Pasadena office of USGS, emailed this morning to add, "Sounds like our friends in the military were keeping late hours."

Further, the shaking and sound were not caused by the asteroid that passed by Earth on Tuesday. This event was largely limited to Orange County. The weirdness of the event was captured by a simple message from Sherry Jacobs of Cypress who wrote, "I felt strong rattling of my patio door. I looked outside to check for strong winds and was surprised to find my wind chimes still."

A reader named Jill added: "I was sitting on my bed watching tv when my doorknob started rattling. My heart started racing because I'm home alone with my 1 year old and I didn't know what it was. It was more nerve-wrecking because besides the sound of the doorknob, I heard nothing and FELT nothing. I live pretty close to john wayne airport so a lot of times when planes go by they rattle my windows and such so I tend to not notice the rattling anymore. But this was definitely weird and creeped me out pretty

bad!"

Tracy Austin of Huntington Beach emailed to say, "We're fairly used to a quake every so often, this one was very strange, our whole house rumbled. Felt like someone was shaking our front door. Our dogs definitely felt it coming."

Note: Sciencedude is on jury duty in Santa Ana today. But I have temporary net access and I'm reading your emails. I am having trouble getting quick, clear info from Camp Pendleton about Tuesday's high explosives work. We simply don't know if explosives were going off in the mid-area of the base, behind the foothills, at the time of the mysterious shaking.

Posted in: [Ain't that interesting?](#) • [Earthquake news and research](#) |

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316 Responses to "Mysterious shaking jiggles doors, windows countywide"

wpw Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 9:50 pm](#)

Here in Mission Viejo, We felt 2 very small quakes at 9:21 and 9:24.

Interesting Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 9:52 pm](#)

My large patio windows were rattling, I got a little spooked as nothing else moved and I didn't feel anything, I thought someone was trying to open the doors with me sitting only a few feet away.

Then my neighbor came out experiencing the same thing. Was wondering for quite a while since my attempts to follow this on the USGS didn't produce any results, thanx science guy.

andy

Newport Beach

BellaKarma Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 9:56 pm](#)

I can't really say I felt it, 'cos I was too busy tripping out on how loud and violently the bathroom door was shaking! It was really odd! My daughter was downstairs, and didn't feel anything.

Bob Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 9:57 pm](#)

Sounded like a big gust of wind ratting the door here in Orange

oakley Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 9:57 pm](#)

I was at the computer when it hit the first time and then the small "aftershock". Been on USGS site since and now it's 10 p.m. Still saw nothing but the same 9:30 a.m. post that you have. Very odd for USGS indeed!

ThisIsNotAnExit Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 9:58 pm](#)

I already emailed you. In costa mesa my windows and window shades shook, but the apartment did not. Ikea in costa Mesa is built on rollers and their windows shook, but the rest of the store did not.

tony Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 9:58 pm](#)

i was next to my window when this small earthquake happend
&& this was predicted aredy by
quakeprediction.com
i cant believe it!!

Cmo Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 9:59 pm

Ladera Ranch- felt quick strong jolt @ 9:30

tony Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 9:59 pm

i felt it in santa ana

Brea Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 10:00 pm

Felt in Brea too

BellaKarma Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 10:02 pm

Andy: I can totally relate! I thought my daughter was joking around with me by rattling the doorknob! I pulled opened the door — and no one was there, which really spooked me too! I kept telling her, "It was like someone was trying to get in!" It was an unsettling feeling.

nomasillegals Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 10:02 pm

I noticed my windows rattling, LOUD around 9:20 p.m. I've been checking the usgs website, but haven't found anything.

lolly Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 10:03 pm

We heard our garage door shake for a few seconds at around 9:18pm - in Laguna Beach.

Al R. Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 10:04 pm

Bob, dead on, it did feel like a strong gust of wind here in Tustin.

mearellano Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 10:05 pm

Yes here in Mission Viejo , there was two I live in a two story town home and my windows started shaking .

ThisIsNotAnExit Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 10:06 pm

10:05 pm. Did it happen again or am I paranoid?

Homatlast Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 10:06 pm

I didn't feel it in Mission Viejo but I sure heard it! Sounded like someone hammered on my front door.

Alphie Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 10:06 pm

I was in the garage. I heard the garage door rattling, was slightly spooked at first, then I thought it was the wind and went about my business. I forgot about it until I just saw this article. I'm near the Orange Mall area.

GracieP Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 10:06 pm

I'm with BellaKarma. Can't say I really felt shaking in Huntington Beach, just heard my windows rattling loudly. Wasn't sure it was even an earthquake. Felt both at 9:21pm and 9:24 pm. Also, surprised quake is

not showing up on USG website.

ocman23@aol.com Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 10:08 pm

Also didn't feel anything but within minutes my bay window and others shook..here in lake forest..

Stacy Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 10:09 pm

Very strange; like 'interesting' said; my slider was rattling as if someone was trying to get in. Cats all took off but nothing outside including the porch swing was moving. Twitter saves the day!

jesse'smom Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 10:09 pm

felt it / heard it at 9:23, shook the front door and windows but nothing else, sounded like someone pounding on the door.

phil Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 10:10 pm

so thats what that was !my roof creaked like someone was up there spooky

jesse'smom Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 10:10 pm

p.s. we're in garden grove.

oakley Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 10:11 pm

1.2 around Idylwild. - <http://tinyurl.com/bwp6g8>

All that noise. No bang.

Irviner Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 10:12 pm

I felt it here in Irvine– we called the police because we assumed someone was trying to get into our house– there was violent shaking and rattling or just the doors. I DON'T think it was an earthquake, though. Perhaps a sonic boom? A shuttle landing at Edwards Air Force Base? It was frightening, nonetheless, because I assumed it was going to be a home invasion.

Jody Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 10:12 pm

I live in Placentia. I didn't feel anything but it shook our doors and windows...very weird one.

anne thompson Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 10:13 pm

We felt both jolts out here in Santiago Canyon, just before 9:30 pm, a few minutes apart. They rattled the glass sliding doors and sounded like someone was walking around upstairs.

josh Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 10:15 pm

Felt it in Santa Ana. thought someone was pounding on my front door with a sledge hamer which made the walls shake

kathy Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 10:15 pm

was here in costa mesa..
i was in south coast plaza when it happend
the windows were rattleing almost evryone
got panicc

Isabella Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 10:15 pm](#)

Our sliding glass door rattled but nothing else moved in the house. We are in South Orange County. I'm not sure if we felt an earthquake or if it's just the bomb training at Camp Pendleton currently underway. They need to go practice bomb droppings in the middle of the desert!

Mark Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 10:15 pm](#)

Felt it in Huntington Beach, seemed to shake the windows and walls but didn't feel much earth movement.

Miriam Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 10:15 pm](#)

Out in San Clemente we heard our patio door and windows rattle really loud for a brief second. We thought our next door neighbour (we live in an apartment complex) had fallen over on his patio window. When we went over to check if he was okay he said he heard the same thing. We were wondering if it really had been an earthquake b/c we never felt any shaking. Thanks to your posts the mystery has been solved! Now I won't be able to go to sleep tonight.....

Anna Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 10:15 pm](#)

@Oakley - that was another one... the ones we are talking about were around 9:20... the one you linked to is from 9:54

gadgetlady Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 10:15 pm](#)

We're in Costa Mesa. Our sliding glass doors shook but the water in our pool didn't move. Weird.

Dawn Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 10:16 pm](#)

We experienced it in Irvine. But it was very odd-weird rumbling/vibrating sound from the house, but no shaking we could actually feel.

Jill Hill Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 10:16 pm](#)

I experienced the same thing most are saying here: Windows rattled, but no movement felt. Dog barked, but she barks at every little sound... I also looked on the USGS site, but found nothing... Wonder if something else actually happened...?

sherry jacobs Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 10:16 pm](#)

I Felt strong rattling of my patio door. I looked outside to check for strong winds and was surprised to find my wind chimes still. I live in cypress.

Anna Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 10:17 pm](#)

@Jody I am also in Placentia
Too weird - I thought earthquake, but when I couldn't find anything I

wondered if someone was trying to get in.

Jill Hill Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 10:19 pm](#)

Oh, btw.....I'm 1/2 block from the Crystal Cathedral...

spectator101 Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 10:20 pm](#)

I agree-felt like someone was trying to break in the house in Villa Park.

DadsGottit Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 10:20 pm](#)

I felt both around 9:39 and 9:41pm. I thought someone was trying to break into my house....

grrrivine Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 10:21 pm](#)

Felt it in Irvine. 9:21 p.m. It made our front door rattle for about 3-4 seconds. Made my heart rate increase a thousand-fold too. It wasn't your usual quake motion, definitely more of a rattle than a roll or sway.

DadsGottit Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 10:21 pm](#)

I'm in Laguna Hills..

Kathy Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 10:22 pm](#)

Felt it here in Aliso Viejo around 9:20 PM and then again a few minutes later. Doors rattling more than anything else.

GracieP Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 10:22 pm](#)

I am also wondering if it was an earthquake or not, because I really did not feel any shaking here in Huntington Beach. Just mainly the noise from shaking windows and doors. Bomb training, mentioned by Isabella sounds plausible.

car guy Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 10:23 pm](#)

Thanks for the update. No mention of quake on the news. OC always left out!!!!!!

gribble Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 10:23 pm](#)

I felt it in Tustin and thought someone was raffling my door trying to get in. It lasted for 3 seconds or so and no one was there. I didn't feel the ground move so I wasn't sure if it was an earthquake or not, very creepy feeling.

King Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 10:25 pm](#)

Similar to "Interesting" and Stacy's accounts, we too thought someone was trying to open our sliding glass door while watching - yes, American Idol.

Jorge Lopez Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 10:25 pm](#)

I felt it like sounded like big gust of wind.
Orange

Amy Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 10:25 pm](#)

I was just sitting in my room, watching American Idol. I didn't really feel anything, my window started shaking and the door. It send my heart pounding for a good 5 minutes, and then I couldn't stop shaking for at least 15. Irvine.

Miriam Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 10:26 pm](#)

Is it possible that it could have been something else and not an earthquake?? All the posts sound the same...everyone heard their windows/doors rattle viciously but no shaking....for that kind of violent rattle of a window wouldn't you think we all would have felt some sort of shaking?? I'm beginning to second guess whether it was an earthquake....

Jill Hill Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 10:27 pm](#)

I agree with GracieP.....and my husband wondered if a shuttle landed..>?

Marcia Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 10:28 pm](#)

At my mobilehome in Huntington Beach, on Ward and Yorktown, my windows rattled at 9:18PM...I waited for some earth movement, but could feel none. I checked immediately on the USGS site to see what went on, but there was no report. This may be something of a different nature...maybe testing of secret military aircraft.

Sheri Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 10:28 pm](#)

I felt it in Huntington Beach very weird. My dog jumped of my lap seconds before the rattling of the windows. I didn't feel anything but heard a sound like a gust of wind just before and during. I thought it was the wind.

Isabella Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 10:28 pm](#)

Gracie, we live in Portola Hills and hear the bomb training from Camp Pendleton all the time! It is very loud tonight. Everyone should call their noise advisory desk and tell them how much of an annoyance they have been tonight. Bomb training to continue throughout the week. Check out their link for specific training and times throughout the day...
<http://www.pendleton.usmc.mil/noiseAdvisory.asp>

Spongeboob Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 10:33 pm](#)

Like many others, here in HB our front door shook and I was certain someone had checked to see if it was unlocked - When no one was there it was pretty freaky and after searching around outside and still finding nothing, freakier still. So whether it was an EQ or Sonic Boom, either is better than home invader or ghost.

Miriam Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 10:34 pm](#)

We live in San Clemente right next to Camp Pendleton and yes we hear them training with the bombs all the time, but this was different. For something of that magnitude to shake our windows that loud we would have heard the bombs even louder tonight but nothing. I don't think it was the Marines training.

GracieP Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 10:36 pm](#)

Isabella - Thanks for the info about Pendleton. I have lived in SoCal approx. forty years, and even though the article says there was an earthquake, what happened earlier didn't feel like an earthquake. Seems more in line with the bomb testing or sonic boom. Just glad to know that I am not crazy. Had been beginning to wonder when I did not find anything on the USGS website earlier!

Michele Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 10:38 pm](#)

So glad to see information finally posted – it was the strangest quake I have ever experienced, and I have been through many. We just looked at each other trying to figure out why our large living room windows for shaking, and then it seemed to go on and on, thought maybe someone was at the front door knocking on the window in panic rather than the door, then our son (6) came running screaming from his room, I finally put together it was an earthquake since it was rattling his windows as well at the back of the house. It was just strange – a couple minutes later one of the large windows in the living room shook again lightly. Thought we were in the twilight zone when nothing appeared on any news channel or internet site and even the USGS showed no activity. Was also thinking sonic boom, but no reports on web re: that either... really unnerved us all. Thanks for posting info to put us at ease!

Russ Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 10:41 pm](#)

Is it possible this is NOT an earthquake, but in fact a sonic boom from an asteroid entering the atmosphere? That would explain the lack of ground shaking, but the reverberation of windows and doors...

Tina Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 10:41 pm](#)

It sounded like my house was about to crack apart, but no shaking was felt. I'm in Rancho Santa Margarita. I can see how this could be mistaken for a home invasion. Very freaky.

lindsay Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 10:42 pm](#)

I felt it in my apartment in Tustin. Usually I can feel the couch shake with everything else but this time just my front door rattled and the sliding glass doors shook as if my neighbor's door slammed. The doors shook so hard my dog jumped up growling and running around!

cd Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 10:43 pm](#)

I live in Newport Beach, on the second floor of a two-story small condo building. I heard the rattling noise — I looked up at a lamp shade to see if it was moving, as in an earthquake, but everything else was completely still. Just the rattling of the back door and dining room window. Very different.

Mike Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 10:45 pm](#)

I was in Fullerton and we had one patio door shaking rather violently like someone was knocking on it. There is another of the same door on the other side of the apartment that did not do this at all. The ground wasn't moving either and we were upstairs. It was roughly the same time, around 9:30. Weird to say the least.

AngelsFanMike Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 10:46 pm

Same situation for me - I had some windows shaking but I didn't feel any movement of my sofa as I relaxed on it. Really kind of a bizarre thing but how else to explain it? Some earthquakes move side to side while some move up and down, as with the Northridge quake of 1994. Quite possible that's what happened here but not a very large tremor.

Isabella Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 10:47 pm

The USGS shows a 1.5 earthquake in Fontana around 9:30. A 1.5 earthquake would not be felt so widely throughout Orange County. Those size quakes happen everyday and go undetected by people. They could be doing bunker bomb training or whatever. Regardless, I am tired of hearing their bombs so late at night!

EarthStudy Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 10:48 pm

I've study earthquakes. Have been for 2 years. I'm always amazed when one hits in this area and I'M the only one who doesn't feel a thing!
I know within 5 seconds whenever an earthquake anywhere in the world hits, due to my constant vigil on 5 earthquake monitoring sites, and alarms set on my iPhone to wake me in the night if anything of significance were to happen while I sleep, but if something in my own backyard happens.....Do I get to experience it???
NOOOOOOOOO! I'm always cheated!
I didn't feel a darn thing! I was sitting at my laptop watching my earthquake monitoring sites and switching back and forth between the news sites when I saw this report. DARN!
I bet the ceiling could fall on my head and I would be too busy monitoring the events in Yellowstone to pay attention to what's happening right under my nose!!!!

PhotoJoe Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 10:49 pm

Has anyone considered it may have been a sonic boom?

PhotoJoe Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 10:50 pm

RE: Has anyone considered it may have been a sonic boom?
I guess Russ did just before me.

Alphie Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 10:52 pm

This reminds me of years ago when I lived near El Toro Marine Base and one night, one of my windows rattled and I thought it was someone trying to break in. The next day, I found out that a couple of F-18 pilots were speeding because they were late from their "Cinderella Liberty" flying into ET caused a sonic boom.
As I mentioned in an earlier post, I was in the garage and heard the door rattle and thought it was the wind, but in the back of my mind rememberd the aforementioned incident. I'm beginning to believe it wasn't a quake, but a sonic boom.

lisa Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 10:53 pm

Finally figured out what the shakin was! We are here in Long Beach, and earlier just one window shook....CRAZY in Long Beach!!

GracieP Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 10:53 pm

So EarthStudy did none of your 5 earthquake monitoring sites show this quake? If none did, might give support to Russ' idea of an asteroid.....

Tony Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 10:55 pm

It felt like a low bass speaker pounding just ones.

Raechel Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 10:56 pm

At school during 3rd period, my class thought the students in the next room were hitting the wall and trying to kill their teacher. I never expected it to be an earthquake...

tremors Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 10:56 pm

i was on the 2nd story when it hit, i felt the shaking.its said that frequencies of similar wavelengths will disrupt one another so tis earthquake must have had the same sub frequency as wood & lumber?

Cann Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 10:56 pm

the weird thing was that I did not feel anything...it was just the noise of the front door shaking...which makes me think that perhaps it was not an earthquake, especially since it is not showing up on USGS website???

Mike Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:00 pm

I think it's clearly starting to look more like a sonic boom than a quake. Our patio door facing SW began shaking, the other facing N did nothing at all and I was standing right next to it. Perhaps something entered the atmosphere to the south, because there's no way a quake of that size could have been felt to the same degree in San Juan Capistrano as in Fontana. At least I wouldn't think so.

cbinln Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:00 pm

I was upstairs (in Laguna Niguel) and on one wall is a wall unit that is anchored to the studs with 3.5 inch bolts and on the adjoining wall there is a very large window. All of the sudden there was a noise coming from the wall unit but nothing was moving - it was as if the studs were making noise. This unit has been up for years and never a peep from it. Then a few minutes later it happened again but this time louder and the adjacent window was rattling loudly too but nothing else was moving. It was loud and disturbing. It seemed as if this movement was "vertical".

Dae Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:01 pm

Thought some one was in my backyard. sliding glass was rattling as if someone was trying to really get it open. i'm in Hacienda Heights (Los Angeles)

sammyj Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:01 pm

A bit of rattling here in Balboa but my roommate didn't feel it.

Eric Steadmond Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:03 pm

I totally thought there was a wind gust. I thought it was odd, but didn't think much of it.
WOW.

ohBoy that was funny Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:04 pm

oh no...
im really getting ready for the big one now!
you can literally feel it coming, oh man im scared!

Andrew Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:04 pm

My wife asked me who was rattling the bedroom door, I said the ghosts had come to get her. HA, it was a quake.

Irvine5 Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:04 pm

this was definitely different. Our patio door shook violently exactly like someone shaking the handle from the outside. Nothing else moved. We are in Irvine just South of Irvine Blvd. Hard to believe this could be an earthquake.

homer92630 Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:05 pm

It wasn't a quake. Get over it, people. It was an episode of wind shear associated with an approaching front which disturbed the convective boundary layer. Look it up.

steve Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:06 pm

This definitely was not n earthquake. I'm in Orange and my windows shook violently, but there was no movement of anything else in the house. When I say violently, I mean I thought for a moment my sliding glass door was going to break! I ran to the door thinking someone was in my backyard trying to break in and found nothing. It was not wind, as nothing was moving outside. I'm thinking a powerful sonic boom. Has anyone experienced this before?

Tony Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:06 pm

I think the gov is trying to hide some thing.

steve Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:07 pm

BTW it was my north facing windows that I witnessed shaking.

kb Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:10 pm

sounds like some kind of explosion in the atmosphere to me

Eric Steadmond Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:11 pm

I was wondering if anyone really felt shaking, or just noticed "things" shaking. I didn't feel any shaking, just noticed and heard things move. It was so weird because it sounded like things were just banging on the doors.

sammyj Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:12 pm

The update of the map at usgs.gov is really interesting, the vast

majority of the reports are from Orange County, not much near the "epicenter."

Katie Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:14 pm

I felt it while watching American Idol — it was strange. I told my husband that it was an earthquake & he said he didn't feel it. The windows shook & it was over. Not like any earthquake I had felt before & I have been through several earthquakes here in southern CA. & this was definitely strange & creepy!

david Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:14 pm

We felt two quick shocks in Irvine. The first shook the garage doors, the second shook the rafters.

robert Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:15 pm

i live in orange and this was strange. i do not think this was an earthquake. the pool was still right afterward. and just like everyone else, the glass doors in the back of the house facing south, were pulsating like i had a chopper hovering in the backyard. i think it had to do with either a jet going super sonic or possibly something to do with NASA. remember that the space shuttle use to land a lot at Edwards back in the day. who the heck knows????????!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

pat Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:16 pm

Relieved to read so many felt the same thing! We thought it was a break-in attempt! First thought it was an earthquake, but there was no movement of lamps AT ALL. Scary when nothing popped up in the USGS site.

oc356 Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:16 pm

Felt my sliding doors shake severely at two different times but the chandelier and other hanging lights didn't budge. This was NOT a quake!

Raechel Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:16 pm

I wonder what happened to people outdoors during this time?

bom Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:17 pm

was resting from running the elliptical and all of a sudden the windows started shaking. but i didn't physically feel it. i just "saw" the quake. then the next door dog barked. something is definately going on... i live in irvine.

Mike Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:18 pm

My guess is people outside aged an additional 6 minutes compared to those indoors.

sean in newport beach Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:19 pm

I wouldn't be surprised if this was a test of a top secret project (but not a asteroid) which caused not just 1 boom since I heard 2 window rattles 2-3 minutes apart which makes me think earthquake with a odd

resonance.

David Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 11:19 pm](#)

damn seriously i felt my floor n window movin .
pretty scary at first. i checked outside my window n nothng. i thought
sumone tried to break in da house.
it was trippy..

Lisa Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 11:20 pm](#)

I am in Costa Mesa and was startled around 9:30PM when my windows
started rattling. This was not a typical earthquake jolt - I thought
someone was trying to break into to my little apartment! My nerves are
still shot!

David Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 11:21 pm](#)

n i felt it in santa ana.

Troy Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 11:23 pm](#)

I thought I was going crazy!
I was laying still in bed looking at the laptop computer and my bedroom
windows began rattling as if someone was outside shaking them with
their palms. But my bedroom is on the second floor! I didn't think it was
an earthquake because there was no other shaking or noise or motion,
just the odd strong rattling of my bedroom windows in their frames.
What was it?!?

Troy Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 11:24 pm](#)

I should add the first strong rattle was at 9:20PM, and then about 10
minutes later there was a shorter and slightly less strong version of the
same rattle. Very odd.

Ozzie Montes Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 11:24 pm](#)

It's amazing that I just found this report. My door was shaking also
around the time they stated. I thought someone was trying to brake in. I
literally swung the door open ready to fight. The odd thing is that I live
in Azusa. Off the 210 Fwy. Pretty far from the O.C.

Tony Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 11:24 pm](#)

December 21, 2012 marks the end of this age and it will end in major
catastrophes such as Earthquakes.

Troy Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 11:25 pm](#)

And forgot to add I live in north Orange, near the Santa Ana river off
Lincoln Avenue.

DanGarion Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 11:25 pm](#)

Probably a jet coming into Los Alamitos. I thought I heard something
but shrugged it off.

Monica Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 11:25 pm](#)

Huntington Beach, around 9.30 the sliding windows were shaking heavily as if somebody was pushing and shaking them and it went on and on. Nothing else was moving. Very weird that this is coming from an earthquake. Also I was under the impression somebody was shaking at my windows. I'm glad to see it was something else.

robert Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:26 pm

we only felt the pulse at 9:30 for about 8-10 seconds

Miriam Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:28 pm

I'm watching the news to see if they will report this at all....now I'm really curious and I want to know for sure what it was. I sent an email alert to ABC Eye Witness News, but haven't heard anything yet.

wired Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:30 pm

NE Fullerton-same symptoms-loud windows. Sounded like an earthquake, but, didn't feel like an earthquake that would make that much noise. I also thought some one was trying to break in. What ever it was, I am glad no one was breaking in, and that I am not the only perplexed one.

Nate Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:30 pm

Felt it in Lake Forest for sure. Two, very "eerie" as you say, quakes. Wasn't sure where it came from as previous posters mentioned due to the USGS site not showing any quakes.

nic Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:32 pm

I *know* it was at, or very close to 9:20p that my sliding doors started shaking. I happened to have been checked them time on my laptop (automatically synched), and it was maybe a minute or two after that, that I noticed my glass sliding doors shaking. they weren't rattling, but visibly shaking back and forth. It was quite frightening actually, but I didn't feel and shaking just saw and heard the windows/door moving. Several other neighbors felt it as well here as well along the northern LA/OC county line.

Lisa Golden Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:32 pm

2nd story windows on one corner of the house started shaking violently — sounded like a person or large animal had landed on our balcony! Then a similar sound, about 3 minutes later (around 9:20 and 9:23 respectively). Dogs ran barking upstairs toward the sound. Have heard sonic booms when shuttle has landed, and definitely hear bombing from Pendleton all the time — but this was totally different. Like so many others, thought someone was trying to break in. If it was the weather front, as suggested earlier, why does something like this not occur more often?

Lisa Golden Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:33 pm

Sorry - forgot to say - Mission Viejo.

rebeccaanne Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:33 pm

I was dozing and the windows started shaking violently and woke me up, I yelled out "Earthquake" and my husband came running down the

hall saying how eerie it felt. He said it sounded to him like a large man running across the roof. I started to get up and run to door, then noticed the ground was not shaking, just the house. It was wierd!

Mia Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:36 pm

There were two distinct episodes prior to 9:30 and approx. 3-4 mins apart. I've lived in CA all of my life and there's NO WAY this was a quake. Nothing else in the home moves. All hanging lights remained stationary. Sonic boom? Perhaps. But what would explain the lag-time between episodes?

maikim Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:36 pm

I felt it in Garden Grove, the patio door and windows in my house were shaking.

Troy Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:37 pm

I've got north facing AND east facing windows in my bedroom, and it was ONLY the north facing window that shook and rattled. That's what caused me to worry, because it was just one window and the bedroom is on the second floor. There was no other movement or earthquake symptoms, just that one window shaking all of a sudden. This was at 9:20PM in northern City of Orange. It did it again a few minutes later, but not as violently.

Oh Zhone Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:38 pm

I was tryin sum of my new stuff & thaut wow! this is grate. Soory to here it was just an erthquake.

Miriam Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:44 pm

I got an email back from KABC. They also checked USGS and said they didn't see anything posted on there that would be close enough for anyone in Orange County to feel at home. They also checked in with the Orange County Sheriff's office, and the Orange County Fire Department, but neither agency felt it or had any information as to what it could be. They said they will try to check in with the FAA in the morning. KABC's guess is that it could possibly be a transformer explosion. Apparrantly that sound comes really close to a sonic boom, and does often shake windows, etc. If they get back to me tomorrow I'll post an update.

Eric Steadmond Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:50 pm

I called my sister in Westminster. She said it was like a gust that rattled some of her windows. She also noticed like a thump at the end on her doors.

What could this have been?

EarthStudy Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:50 pm

GracieP, You asked if any of my monitoring stations picked up anything would be felt as violent as is being reported? and as far as I can find the answer is NO. USGS has been "unreliable" in their reporting ever since the latest Yellowstone swarm. Things will pop up and then disappear, only to show up again a week later. There are rumors that geologists wish to investigate each quake before making an official report in order not to cause public panic. How true that is, I don't know.

My studies have shown a drastic INCREASE in quakes in Yellowstone, the ring of fire, Southern CA, and in areas of the U.S. that are NOT plate related. Although I am not a scientist, nor a geologist, just merely someone with an overactive curiosity, I find this trend disturbing. I find doubly disturbing that our reporting stations are not releasing the information to the public as it happens, but are holding back (for our own good).

I might suggest you watch the movie "SuperVolcano" made by the BBC. You can watch it in 10 minute segments on YouTube. Although it is fictionalized account of Yellowstone blowing, it comes VERY VERY close to the reality of what is to come.

In my personal opinion, what happened tonight was NOT an earthquake.

Kristen Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 11:52 pm](#)

Felt/heard shaking in Mission Viejo right before 9:30. Very interested to find out what really happened!

christina Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 11:52 pm](#)

I live in Buena Park and thought I felt an earthquake around the same time every body else did. But the first thing I did was look at my chandelier and it wasn't rocking. I just thought I had imagined the patio doors and windows rattling. Very interested to know what it was...

jill! Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 11:53 pm](#)

I'm in costa mesa right near southcoast

I was sitting on my bed watching tv when my doorknob started rattling. My heart started racing because I'm home alone with my 1 year old and I didn't know what it was. It was more nervewrecking because besides the sound of the doorknob, I heard nothing and FELT nothing. I live pretty close to john wayne airport so a lot of times when planes go by they rattle my windows and such so I tend to not notice the rattling anymore. But this was definitely weird and creeped me out pretty bad! I checked the website every 2 min trying to figure out what it was. My nerves are more unsettled now that the update says it most likely wasn't a quake and they don't know what it was. Creepy creepy creepy...now I can't sleep!!

Lisa Golden Says:

[March 3rd, 2009 at 11:58 pm](#)

Thank you, OC Register & Science Dude & all the repliers, as though its difficult to go to sleep, its nice to know so many people experienced this very strange phenomenon. If it was a transformer as KABC is suggesting, the local utility companies would verify that immediately.

rebeccaanne Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 12:00 am](#)

I'm near South Coast Plaza. Violent shaking of house & windows, but not the ground.

EarthStudy Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 12:00 am](#)

I just checked GEE, (Global Earthquake Explorer). Originally set up for the university systems for students studying Earth Studies to monitor Earthquakes. They have seismographs all over the world. They can be accessed "real time" if you download the software onto your computer. There is a station at Saddleback College. I just checked in with that one and NO EARTHQUAKE.
So, I have verified with USGS and GEE that there was NO Earthquake,

at least of any size that could be felt to the degree that is being reported.

krissy Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 12:01 am

has anyone ever heard of Air Quake's and if they exist?

BellaKarma Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 12:02 am

Jill ~

I'm right there with you — and everyone else who found it eerie. I could hear the panic in my voice when I was describing to my daughter about the doorknob rattling — alone on the second floor of our townhouse!

I question it being blown transformers — seen/heard plenty do that during big quakes — and tonight did not seem similar in any way. Plus, would a blown transformer(s) be felt over such a wide reporting area? I hope we get some answers and doesn't get brushed aside!

Lisa Golden Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 12:02 am

Anyone else having difficulty with their satellite TV since the shaking?

Troy Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 12:03 am

But how could a transforming exploding cause rattling windows and shaking doors from Fullerton to San Clemente?! I don't buy the blown transformer story.

hello Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 12:07 am

I felt the earthquake in Seal Beach. Well, I didn't "feel" it, but I was in my bedroom and heard the windows shaking. I wasn't sure if someone was trying to open my window.

krissy Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 12:10 am

I looked up air quakes and there seems to be no such thing. I live in Whittier which is close to Fullerton. I didn't hear anything while I sat at my computer. This is strange.

nic Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 12:16 am

if this was a sonic boom it was definitely unlike any I have experienced previously. 15 years or so ago there was quite a few of them in SoCal, and they were also one or two loud booms, and the windows would give one or two quick jolts. This was sustained shaking over several seconds. I've also had a transformer blow a few miles from my house last year, and again, it was nothing like this. The windows didn't rattle one bit, but I could see a glow coming from the area like a large fire (but bluish, and not red/orange). And as others have pointed out it wouldn't be felt from La Habra (where I am) all the way down to the coast.

It don't think it was an earthquake, but I'm not buying the other explanations of it either.

Tony Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 12:18 am

For the past 2 hours it has been wierd on my room I dont get reception on my phone or the radio.

Ellyn Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 12:18 am

Our sliding door shook a few times here in Irvine. Spooked us!

Miriam Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 12:22 am

Nic....you saw a glow coming from the window?.....so if it's not an earthquake, and the transformer story doesn't seem realistic, and it's not a sonic boom....and you say you saw a glow from your window....was it an alien occurrence or something?? This seems very strange and I'm not one of those people that jumps to the whole extraterrestrial sightings, but at this point who really knows!

Elizabeth S Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 12:24 am

I've been feeling them since yesterday evening, just assumed it was wind, since i live in Santa Ana near 55/Tustin, its always wind, but to my amazement as previous entries, chimes and outdoor plants were in tact.

Debbie Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 12:25 am

Second floor condo next to Hoag Hospital in Newport Beach, on the bluff overlooking Newport Bay, we felt it. It lasted 7-8 seconds and we thought it was definately an earthquake, shaking windows and doors. We're certain the neighbors all felt it. Very strange.

BellaKarma Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 12:27 am

Miriam~
I believe Nic was talking about when the transformers DID blow last year; a blue light in the sky is common with my experiences when transformers blow.

Ms. E Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 12:27 am

there was no shuttle landings at the edwards space base and although there was explosives at camp pendleton its unlikely that was the cause, same with the 2.2 quake near fontona, i am wondering if maybe it was a sonic boom of some sort, after all did anyone hear about the asteroid that nearly hit us today?? yeah i just learned about it today, it came closer to us then the moon=/ maybe it had something to do with that.

nic Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 12:27 am

mariam, sorry for the confusion. I meant earlier this year when a transformer blew a few miles from my house I saw the glow, NOT tonight.

Miriam Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 12:29 am

I don't know if I've completely lost my mind but I just looked up UFO sightings and many people who have spotted UFOs have experienced this same sudden violent rattling of their windows/doors as though a giant were banging on their house but no shaking. I dunno....maybe I've just become crazy and delusional and need to go to bed....

Miriam Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 12:30 am

LOL...OK GOOD! I knew I was acting crazy and delusional....time to go to bed for me! LOL.

steve Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 12:31 am](#)

I've noticed the same thing in Anaheim but for the last couple of days. Over the last 3 days, I noticed it at least 4 times, strange.

nd Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 12:31 am](#)

I think it was an energy. Not a quake. Nothing rumbled. It was almost like a movement that you could not explain. My cat freaked out. It has bothered me for hours that's why I got up just now. I looked at the seismic site and nothing was recorded. ALWAYS things show if there was movement. Not to sound goofy but it was not of this world. That's my take.

Miriam Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 12:40 am](#)

I can't go to bed this whole thing has just captivated me for tonight..... okay so now someone else other than me kinda thinks that it could have been extraterrestrial. hmmm, very interesting....

Bobby Nicholl Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 12:46 am](#)

There was something, that's for sure. Et's Mmm?

nd Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 12:51 am](#)

Miriam,
That article insults our intelligence saying there was an earthquake in the morning and we only tonight started calling in. 12 hours later. For certain it was an energy of some sort. Perhaps that sun halo 2 days ago also has something to do with this. I now know what unexplained means. This is tough to explain to anyone.

BellaKarma Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 12:53 am](#)

Miriam ~
Trust me, after seeing strange things in the skies over Corona del Mar for years, I don't think you are delusional or crazy in questioning something unconventional.

Troy Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 1:18 am](#)

But here's the thing... several people from across the county all experienced it at the same time, 9:20PM. I looked at the time on my laptop when it happened, as I instinctively do whenever there is a small earthquake. But this was no earthquake. Yet it happened from one end of Orange County to the other at exactly 9:20PM. And, everyone in my neighborhood I've spoken with experienced it only rattling doors and windows on the north facing sides of our house. And other reports here talk about northern windows, or happening on just "one side" of the house. That's just weird. Maybe it was some sort of sonic air wave created by a military jet or something? If it was traveling at a couple times the speed of sound, that could travel from City of Orange to San Clemente within a minute, north or south, right?

nd Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 1:18 am](#)

Like a gust of wind, but nothing moved.
Not one leaf on the tree.

Troy Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 1:19 am](#)

Although, the fact that there was a second smaller rattle a few minutes later also makes it more mysterious. I noticed the second rattle on my north window, as did my neighbor. It wasn't as strong, but was just as odd. Maybe two military jets creating two weird sonic waves?

Tesoro Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 1:26 am](#)

felt 2 in mv kinda weird everyone in the house felt it

N Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 1:28 am](#)

We felt it very strongly here in the East Side of Costa Mesa. I also thought it was the wind but I immediately looked outside and saw that none of the trees were moving. All of the windows rattled very loudly. We are moderately close to John Wayne Airport and there was a large jet in the sky but I'm not sure if that had anything to do with it. Also, I definitely felt the little "aftershock" a couple of minutes later. Very strange indeed.

Redhart Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 1:34 am](#)

I've experienced something like this *once*-- About a year ago a fireball flew over the L.A. area during the day, so bright it was reported widely on from many (many who thought it was a plane going down in flames). It flew north and, apparently, exploded (as many do if they are large enough, without hitting the ground). The sonic boom/air concussion wave everyone has described here (shaking things from above, rather than coming from below like a quake) is EXACTLY what happened. My guess is, if checking is done, we might find it is a bolide (a fireball that explodes due to heat and friction, above the ground). I would bet money on it--exact description match of a fireball/bolide (there are 20 of these things a day big enough to categorize as such on Earth--now and then, one's going to do so over a populated area).

Redhart Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 1:38 am](#)

Troy, that matches, too. The first was the sonic boom (these things come in supersonic), the second one the explosion of the object up in the atmosphere.

crazy Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 1:41 am](#)

John Wayne Airport is supposed to be closed in the middle of the night, but loud planes flying low overhead at 1:40 am. What is going on?

doug Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 1:59 am](#)

Felt it also around the same time. Felt like a car hit my garage door as I live upstairs in a duplex. All the windows rattled but only the ones facing North? Someone doing underground testing in Vegas? What the heck is going on?

mary Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 2:15 am](#)

I felt it in Newport coast too. This was a sign from above.. "Be Calm" for trust in God!!!

Gaseous Maxims Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 2:15 am](#)

I would like to apologize to Orange County residents. I had Del Taco for dinner tonight and I would just like to say, "Excuse me."

Bob Laughlin Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 2:30 am](#)

Vampires trying to get in,,that's what it was,,yeah,,vampires,,yeah,,

Nick Sulvan Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 2:35 am](#)

I was on my porch reading while this went on, nothing shook except the windows, I believe it was alien's.

GT Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 2:47 am](#)

I went to bed very early tonight and then around 9:20 (I glanced at the clock) I was awakened by a rumbling that shook my bedroom window. I went back to sleep, thinking it was just a micro-quake. I awakened a short time ago and thought I would check my email to see if I had recieved a shake map notice from the USGS. Not seeing one I visited the USGS web site and then looked in the REGISTER. Glad to see that I was not alone in this. (Santa Ana)

NZ Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 3:39 am](#)

Ghosts. Lots of 'em. Makes as much sense as anything else. Or as little.

Bernie Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 4:05 am](#)

"Deja Vu all over again". When I lived in OC 15 years ago. there was window rattling every Tuesday night about 9:15 to 9:20. It was determined to be a sonic, rather than seismic, event, and was traceable from Catalina up into the high desert. It turned out to be one of the "black" projects returning from flights over the ocean. It sounds as if they may be at it again.

digitaldude Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 4:46 am](#)

I believe it was an extremely rare incidence of the overlapping of an alternate universe with ours.

Wade Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 5:24 am](#)

We felt it in the City of Orange (East Orange) 2 separate times last night. One of our four south facing windows shook. It sounded like someone was tapping on our window and running away. We've been freaked out until we saw this article.

Greg Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 5:33 am](#)

I live on Balboa Island and my windows, but nothing else shook.

Fil Hussein Oaks Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 5:37 am](#)

My door rattled and I feared it was the ghosts of dead Rethuglicants coming to steal my pocket change.

Sharon Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 5:53 am

I felt the shaking in H.B. It set my nerves on edge. I didn't know what it was and even checked to see if it was an earthquake. My door rattled and my windows.

k in irvine Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 5:57 am

So we still don't know what it was? I didn't feel a thing in Irvine, but windows did rattle strongly - which is really weird that the windows would shake & my house didn't? My dogs got up from their sleep, barking thinking someone was trying to come in. WHAT THE HECK WAS THIS if USGS doesn't have anything recorded!?

Swest Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 6:07 am

Felt it too around that time but it was not like an earthquake where you feel the house moving or earth. I live off a busy street that trucks go down often so I experience a lot of window rattling often from that, but this even SOUNDED different. Door and walls shook like a sonic boom. If it wasn't that then what was it? Chandelier wasn't moving either.

sunlvmap Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 6:21 am

Felt it in Laguna Niguel, like someone was trying to break in the front door... Scared the heck out of me...

Sandy Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 6:34 am

Just wanted to say that I live in Mission Viejo and all my windows rattled and I thought it was an earthquake too!!!! I'm surprised this was not considered an earthquake!!!

Suas Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 6:34 am

I was in my house around 9:26 pm when all of the sudden the back door of my house was shaking, I could've sworn I saw a hand hitting the door, I ran outside because I thought somebody was trying to get in. For my surprise I found something that appears to be chocolate chip cookie crumbs. I have a theory probably SANTA was choking and he needed some milk which could explain how so many houses can be reached and such a short time.

Hot Tub Johnny Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 6:36 am

We felt it in HB.

nd Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 6:37 am

GOOGLE
mysterious shaking
and you'll be surprised that it has been happening not only here.

Gary Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 6:43 am

wow.....this is wild that this occurred. I felt it to and thought my upstairs neighbor closed her door loudly. to read all these responses is wild.

BobM Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 6:46 am

We live in Whittier and just the downstairs window at the back of the house shook...no other windows or doors in the house and lasted for several seconds.

former18 Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 6:49 am

In Buena Park we felt it and thought someone was trying to break into the house.. my roommate is a police officer and went to grab her gun, when we went outside there was nothing. Boy did we feel foolish!

Dina Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 6:51 am

They are always blowing things up near the border of San Clemente and Camp Pendleton. Sometimes you see weird debris/light in the sky. The area is a big valley pointing towards Mission Viejo. I'll bet its military. It was constantly shaking right after 911. I think they practice there.

Bob Laughlin Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 6:56 am

A subspace shock wave is a violent compressional wave caused by a massive energy discharge which travels through the medium of subspace. These phenomena are typically created by the destruction of large planetary or stellar bodies.

In 2293, a subspace shock wave was created from the explosion and partial destruction of the Klingon moon, Praxis. The effects of the shock wave caused severe damage to Qo'noS, as well as minor damage to the nearby USS Excelsior. (Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country; VOY: "Flashback")

The unusual supernovae caused by the Q Civil War of 2373 generated subspace shock waves. The shock waves collapsed the USS Voyager's warp field, preventing its escape and causing severe damage. (VOY: "The Q and the Grey")

gissele Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 6:59 am

hey people this earthquake was predicted by
QUAKEPREDICTION.COM
im ammused because it also predicted the one on january 8,2009

JYoung Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 7:02 am

It was so strong here in Costa Mesa it woke me up from a deep sleep. I went to bed early since I wasn't feeling well and when it happened I immediately woke up and was like "did we just have an earthquake?" But everything seemed ok (lights were still on, didn't smell anything bad) so I went back to bed. This is weird.

muadib Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 7:02 am

FELT IT IN TUSTIN.I WOULD GUESS IT WAS AN AIR CRAFT OF SOME SORT MILES OFF THE COAST BREAKING THE SOUND BARRIER.THIS HAPPEND EVERY THURSDAY FOR A FEW WEEKS ABOUT 10 YEARS AGO AND WAS EXPLAINED AS TWO OR MORE FIGHTERS FROM AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER RETURNING TO CMP.PENDLETON.WHY THEY WOULD BE FLYING AT THAT SPEED JUST TO GET TO PENDLETON ..I DON'T KNOW ,MAYBE IT WAS A COVER FOR AN EXPEREMENTAL AIRCRAFT UNDER WRAPS .`LIKE SOME TYPE OF EXTERNAL COMMBUSTION PROTOTYPE .I DON'T KNOW .INTERESTING THOUGH .

Dudeman Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 7:03 am](#)

I farted...

Peggy Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 7:10 am](#)

I was sitting at our home computer when my husband yelled from the bedroom "what was that?" Teenage daughter came from her bedroom saying that she thinks we just had an earthquake. Teenage son came from downstairs saying the same thing. All complained that windows shook & rattled. I felt and heard nothing. Looked for any report on news both computer and TV, as well as USGS. No mention until this morning. Its a mystery.

Misty Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 7:15 am](#)

I live in an apartment in Mission Viejo and early in the evening there was a low flying helicopter (I mean really low, this has been happening a LOT lately and frankly I am sick of it) that caused my apartment to rumble. Because of the frequency of this I didn't think any of it other then I wish they would stop being so inconsiderate and fly higher. So later I was sitting at my computer and saw the sliding glass door shake and heard the blinds around my apartment shake, I listened for a helicopter and nothing...
... so there is no answer? That's insane...

Mitch Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 7:18 am](#)

When I first felt it in my home in the Floral Park area of Santa Ana, I immediately thought it was a sonic boom. Now it seems pretty obvious that I was correct. No quake. No shuttle. No live fire. Must have been a military aircraft flying over OC.

Loretta Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 7:22 am](#)

Lake Forest. Sitting in family room near sliding glass door. Glass door rattled like a minor earthquake for about 5 seconds 9:15PM Tuesday.

Suas Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 7:28 am](#)

I was in my house around 9:26 pm when all of the sudden the back door of my house was shaking, I couldve sworn a saw a hand hitting the door, i ran outside because i thought somebody was trying to get in. For my surprise i found something that appear to be chocolate chip cookie crumbs. i have a theory probably SANTA was choking and he needed some milk which could explain how so many houses can be reached

mikel Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 7:29 am](#)

RSM. I was leaning over the dining room table reading something with both palms on the table and it started "vibrating" (for lack of a better word). I looked around expecting to see things doing the usual after-quake sway, but the chandelier and everything else was still. Very strange.

flatline Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 7:30 am](#)

It was clearly an alien space craft crossing our area 2x

j Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 7:30 am](#)

Wow, we thought it was our daughter trying to come into the bedroom, but when we checked she was in her room sound asleep. We then went around the house checking all the doors to confirm they were locked. Very strange....

Gerry Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 7:30 am](#)

I didn't feel anything at 9pm. But I did feel an earthquake around 1 am? I guess it wasn't an Eartquake...WTF?

Sherry Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 7:33 am](#)

Glad to hear it wasn't just me. The first time @ ~9:20 I thought one of my cats was banging on the window to get me to let him in. The second one, about 10 min later, definitely was not a cat! I thought my whole dining room window was going to shake loose!

Peggy Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 7:33 am](#)

Huntington Beach

Bob Laughlin Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 7:35 am](#)

It may have been Chris Brown shaking the bejeesus out of his girlfriend Rihanna.

Liza Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 7:35 am](#)

I live in Chino Hills, CA ~ it was the strangest thing, my husband and I were preparing to go to bed, when the windows to our bedroom started shaking..I waited to see if the rest of house would shake and it didn't so I never got up from the bed.
My husband believed it was probably some teenagers running from our backyard deck out through our patio door. But everything looked still and calm. I did notice some of the neighborly dogs start to bark around 8:50 almost 15 to 20 minutes of barking...so was it an earthquake, anyone testing nukes, or an underground tunnel explosion gone wrong? ?? Or maybe the gov't doesn't want to tell us what it really was....

Ameise00 Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 7:36 am](#)

I aint fraid of no ghosts ! Call Gostbusters...

Karen Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 7:38 am](#)

Heard the windows rattle as though we were experiencing an earthquake here in San Clemente, also heard something that sounded like a door being shut. Didn't feel anything (even though my daughter thought she felt something, I didn't). At first I thought it was my other daughter coming home and opening our garage door, but when I realized that wasn't the case I deducted we just experienced a small quake.

Queen Bee Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 7:39 am](#)

Thank goodness for this story because I was beginning to think we had imagined it!

jeff sweem Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 7:40 am](#)

Huntington Beach

My windows and front door rattled and fish in tank went nuts.

Ameise00 Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 7:40 am](#)

It was the grand Messiah "Obama" sweeping your debt away. All pray for the great one.Obama..Obama..Obama

Pete Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 7:40 am](#)

Felt it here in Laguna Niguel last night. Very odd USGS shows no reading.

Mike Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 7:41 am](#)

Same thing happened at my house in Tustin on Sunday afternoon but it was not nearly as strong as last nights.

Me and my father in law were standing on my patio and my sliding glass door shook. He thought I had bumped into it. Nobody else was home.

geodude Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 7:42 am](#)

I live in Tustin and none of my family noticed this event last night. However, I work in Anaheim and we experienced the same type of phenomenon there late last week. I had also checked USGS for seismic activity last week but there had been none that would explain what we felt at the office. Last night's phenomenon would best be explained by an acoustic shock wave. The frequency was likely too low for humans to hear so must be less than 20 Hz. Question is, what caused it. It would be interesting to plot the locations and timing of the event as felt by people across the county to see if the data can indicate where the source was. Perhaps it was related to a meteoric explosion.

Eric - Lake Forest Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 7:42 am](#)

We heard the windows rattling and thought it sound like a gust of wind out side in the trees

Joe Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 7:44 am](#)

Something new flying out of Edwards???

jen Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 7:44 am](#)

It was about 9:20 and I was standing at my front door in Orange. It sounded like something made a booming sound and rattled the roof of my house. I first thought it was the D-land fireworks, but it was too early for that and it didn't sound right. That was the weirdest sound I've heard/felt in a while!

Ameise00 Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 7:46 am](#)

It was the grand Messiah "Obama" OK! No gust of wind, no earthquake. It was a sign from your great leader. Wake up people! This is the sign of the holy one.

scrchvy Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 7:47 am

Back door rattled, and dogs noticed. I even looked outside to make sure there wasn't a racoon trying to get in! Nothing.

Dan De La Torre Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 7:48 am

At exactly 9:15pm. I did not experienced this shaking, however, at the time I was outside just walking back home from the parking lot as I was looking up in the sky as I always do and noticed this strange tiny tiny little light flashing with a fine stream of smoke behind it. "Thats weird" I thought because airplanes do not fly at this altitude, at this speed, and normally do not leave a stream of smoke especially at night. Could this be the caused????

hbrocks Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 7:49 am

AP is reporting we had an asteroid passing by...(read below)
PASADENA, Calif. – An asteroid about the size of one that blasted Siberia a century ago just buzzed by Earth.
NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory reported that the asteroid zoomed past Monday morning.
The asteroid named 2009 DD45 was about 48,800 miles from Earth. That is just twice the height of some telecommunications satellites and about a fifth of the distance to the Moon.
The space ball measured between 69 feet and 154 feet in diameter. The Planetary Society said that made it the same size as an asteroid that exploded over Siberia in 1908 and leveled more than 800 square miles of forest.
Most people probably didn't notice the cosmic close call. The asteroid was only spotted two days ago and at its closest point passed over the Pacific Ocean near Tahiti.
http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090304/ap_on_re_us/asteroid_close_call;_ylt=Ar6nkzj3oqI5DJJd7fNWVd8DW7oF

Chris O'Day Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 7:49 am

I was standing on my balcony with my hand on the railing when my patio doors started shaking 5 feet behind me but I felt nothing from the railing. I live in Whittier.

LINESMAN_GIRL Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 7:50 am

WE FELT IT IN ANAHEIM I THOUGHT SOMEONE WAS TRYING TO BREAK IN!! BUT MY DOGS MADE NO NOISE IT WAS VERY STRANGE!!

nd Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 7:51 am

I just read on Yahoo that a large asteroid passed over the Pacific Ocean. Maybe it was that.

raicha Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 7:53 am

Rattling of windows got my attention and spooked my 2 cats, but I didn't feel any shaking here in downtown Anaheim.

Richard Roehm Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 7:55 am

I dont want to sound too bizzarre but I seen this before and it's associated with a new type of aircraft engine.

Jose Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 7:59 am

Felt it in Aliso Viejo...twice. My doors rattled for a few seconds. I didnt feel anything, just heard the shaking doors and saw the my dog trying to hide.

Alicia Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 8:01 am

I'm glad that I was not the only one that felt the shaking last night. I was home alone and being deathly afraid of earthquakes, I called my fiance, like I always do after every shake and roll, he was in his office and said that he did not feel anything. I then went back to what I was doing and I felt and saw my front window rattle and move again. It is now 7:58 am on the 4th and I just felt my front window rattle again. It is strange because there is no wind blowing outside. I hope that someone finds out what the heck is making things rattle and shake.....QUICKLY!!!

Lea Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 8:03 am

I was sitting at home last night with my cat and dog beside me. Ironically enough I had just finished watching "How the Earth was Made". They were talking about the San Andres fault. My fire place has a cage type thing with candles on it, and at right around 9:15 it rattled and spooked my cat and dog. I started looking at my hanging lamp and the cords in our blinds...nothing was moving! I am in Huntington Beach.

David Rojas Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 8:08 am

I was alone in my second floor study doing some late night paperwork when the windows started shaking. But nothing else moved here in Laguna Niguel. Yes, truly weird.

Sandy Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 8:11 am

I was already in bed when I heard this bang in my attic. I sounded like someone had fallen up there. But, my dogs didn't move or bark so I thought it just might be in my head that I heard something. I feel better now.

Kim Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 8:12 am

And here I thought it was just ME!!!! LOL I was feeding my 6 month old her bottle when stuff started rattling around the house a little after 9:00 pm last night and I thought it seemed strange but didn't think anything of it because the bed wasn't shaking or anything so I just blew it off.... Pretty strange that so many people had this same exact thing going on and it wasn't even an earthquake! What the heck was it then??

Maria Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 8:13 am

In Huntington Beach near PCH - I thought I had overloaded the washing machine which is in my garage because there was loud pounding coming from my garage door. When opened the garage door and saw the washing machine was working fine it creeped me out because then I realized it also sounded like someone inside the garage pounding on the door to get in. My dogs didn't bark or act wierd the way they normally do in an earthquate.

MrN Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 8:13 am

This was weird. Nothing was shaking but the doors and windows were rattling. My dogs were barking. We thought that someone was trying to break in. It happened 2 times about 3 or 4 minutes apart. We are in Santa Ana.

pickle lover Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 8:14 am

I felt it in Anaheim. My sliding glass door shook , but nothing else. I thought my cats were playing , but found them just sitting next to each other. Hope they find out what it was...pretty weird.

Kate Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 8:14 am

My cat freaked out and then I felt what I thought was a short earthquake on Balboa Island. I put on the radio afterwards to see if anything was reported but did not hear anything about it.

Frogmann Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 8:16 am

9:00 PMish coincides with the near miss of the asteroid that almost hit the earth yesterday. A 30-50 meter wide asteroid came within 60,000 Kilometers of the earth yesterday and was sighted in the daylight in Sydney Australia around 12:00 PM which would have been around 9:00 PM here.

<http://www.smh.com.au/world/science/asteroid-plays-chicken-with-earth-20090303-8nge.html>

Todd Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 8:19 am

Me and my wife here in Anaheim were watching American Idol and thought it was a earthquake but the only thing that was moving was our windows in our apartment..... very weird. Only thing that comes to mind that it could have been since it wasn't a earthquake was a VERY big explosion or a sonic boom.

PhotoJoe Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 8:19 am

Miriam Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:44 pm

KABC's guess is that it could possibly be a transformer explosion. Apparently that sound comes really close to a sonic boom, and does often shake windows, etc. If they get back to me tomorrow I'll post an update.

— REPLY —

No way a transformer explosion was heard and felt county-wide. I'm even in LA County and I felt last night's . . . non-quake.

PhotoJoe Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 8:21 am

homer92630 Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 11:05 pm

It wasn't a quake. Get over it, people. It was an episode of wind shear associated with an approaching front which disturbed the convective boundary layer. Look it up.

— REPLY —

Wind Shear is a LOCALIZED effect. It is not something that effects multiple counties simultaneously. This was felt in SD, OC, LA, and whatever county Fontana is in (SBDO?)

imacobru Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 8:23 am

It's just the economy in further collasp. You will continue to feel small tremors, shakes, rattles and rolls before total collasp. It should stop, according to the experts sometime in mid 2010. The US Government is printing so much money so fast the increase in weight is shifting the North American plate. Have no fear, this can only go on for so long, after it hits \$13 Trillion Dollars, all the worlds money is spent, then it has to stop.

PhotoJoe Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 8:23 am](#)

hbrocks Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 7:49 am](#)

AP is reporting we had an asteroid passing by...(read below)
PASADENA, Calif. – An asteroid about the size of one that blasted Siberia a century ago just buzzed by Earth.
NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory reported that the asteroid zoomed past Monday morning.
– REPLY –
Interesting, but why are we hearing Monday morning's asteroid Tuesday night?

Rrene128 Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 8:25 am](#)

I had just laid down to sleep when I heard it. It was as though a huge gust of wind came through the house, with no wind, only the effect (similar to when someone slams one door, and the rest of the windows and doors shutter). I was the only one in my house of heard it.
Thanks Science Guy.

Ed Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 8:25 am](#)

I live in San Juan Capistrano and I was surfing online when all of a sudden I heard a boom and then my bedroom window rattled real hard. I thought someone slam one of the doors in the house real hard. I was home alone and thought maybe someone came in. I looked at my dinner table hanging lamp to see if it was moving and it wasn't. I then went outside to check things out. About 10-15 min later it happened again. Very weird.

OhBoy Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 8:26 am](#)

Don't need a shuttle to land to get a sonic boom. Many aircraft can do that.

Rrene128 Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 8:27 am](#)

... forgot to mention, I am in Laguna Niguel.

SCgali Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 8:28 am](#)

I live in San Clemente and went to bed early, around 9, because I wasn't feeling well. A few minutes later I heard the windows rattle and wrote it off as a mini earthquake. About ten minutes later the rattling happened again, leading me to believe someone was trying to break in. So I got my two german shepherds and searched around the inside and outside of the house. Of course not finding anything

Wes Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 8:30 am](#)

I felt it at around 9:15, I thought it was a stiff wind picking up and then the apt felt like someone hit it with the side of their fist and all the

garage doors in the lane between the next complex and mine were rumbling as if just shook. This is the second time since I moved down here that I have felt something like this. The last time was when I lived in Oceanside and was working in Carlsbad (about 2 1/2 years ago), very similar circumstances and no explanation.

I don't think it was a sonic boom, I grew up near Edwards AFB and have heard many many sonic booms, this was nothing like that. This was based in the earth, very weird.

daisyjune Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 8:31 am

My picture window shook with enough severity that I left the area just in case it shattered.

After reading all the comments, I'm convinced of Aliens. Actually, could it be the residual from the near miss of the asteroid that nearly collided with earth over the weekend? Sound waves of that magnitude could clearly explain the atmospheric disturbance.

Tom Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 8:31 am

It must be one of those unmanned spy supersonic jets that flew out into the ocean. Heading who knows? Maybe it was dispatched to investigate the probable upcoming North Korean ballistic missile test. The whole region, Japan, South Korea, China, Taiwan, are nervous.

Kathy R Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 8:32 am

I live in West Anaheim in an apartment, my two teenage sons and I were watching TV when my front window started rattling. I told my son to look out the window and then out the door (I thought it was one of their many friends messing around). When my son went outside there was nothing and no one. It did scare me. My sons said to quit tripping mom. So now I know I'm not crazy.

I wonder..... Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 8:33 am

It sounds like "SIGNS" of the times!!! Don't quite understand how windows & doorknobs are rattling while wind chimes remain unaffected.

Jacob Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 8:38 am

I felt it in Tustin...thought it was a helicopter. Oh well, keep it up government.

fayray Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 8:38 am

Definitely felt something here in city of Orange right about that time. It was as everyone says, mostly doors and windows rattling. My cat, always alert to earthquakes, bolted out of sleep just moments before it started. That's when I knew something was about to happen.

thatoneguy Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 8:39 am

I don't feel so crazy now after seeing this! I live in Orange and heard the door rattling - long enough to notice it and feel the onset of anxiety that comes when you feel an earthquake about to occur. Had it not been for this post, I wouldn't have thought anything further of it. There are rumors of 'black' aircraft being tested/spotted around the country as of late, perhaps we experienced a flyby. This is almost reminiscent of the mysterious sonic booms felt across Los Angeles back in the early 1990s.

PhotoJoe Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 8:41 am

Over a short-scale there are things that could explain this. But I'm stumped on what'd be felt over such a large area. The biggest things I can find are thermobaric weapons and nuclear weapons. I think either one would have made hell of a splash in the news. The initial blast in both cases super-heats and displaces air outwards and when the air begins to cool air comes rushing back in to fill what is a very low pressure area. Both are comes with highly visible explosions. The 2nd with radiation and EMP effects. I doubt either was used at, say, Camp Pendelton, last night. Wind shear is highly localized and isn't a likely culprit either. Sonic booms are a possibility but there are reports of 8 to 10 seconds of shaking . . . a flight of multiple aircraft could do this. It would obviously have to be a military flight. I wonder how one might go about asking the government about information on military exercises/training/tests that went on over OC or over the ocean nearby.

Skysofly Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 8:41 am

So, the same thing happened to me at 9:15. My front door shook as if someone was moving it to break in. Freaked my sister out. odd

Skysofly Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 8:41 am

I'm from Orange btw

SM Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 8:42 am

We felt it in Yorba Linda. Doors and windows shook and that was it. Thought it was an earth quake and waited but it never hit. Weird stuff. Must be the government testing "secret" equipment again.

annemakes Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 8:42 am

i felt this mofo too. i live in tustin and was lying in bed when it sounded like a strong gust of wind hit the windows and then a few seconds later, the door in the hall. BUT, the windows were open and the curtain didn't move. I immediately thought EARTHQUAKE and began watching the USGS and other real-time quake reporting sites but never saw anything. Now this. I eventually decided it must have been some apartment complex anomaly, and went to bed. I agree that it was initially more like a sonic boom or some sort of sound/air pressure event than an earthquake. My bed did not move.

D. Hickman Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 8:43 am

Weird, but yes, I was relaxing in my bedroom when all of a sudden the doors and windows rattled as if someone had suddenly entered the house. When the front door opens, a rush of wind enters and exits almost like a vacuum, so I thought that's what it was.

MIB Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 8:43 am

Felt it in HB too. Door rattled. I just got off the phone with Will Smith; he said the aliens have landed (j/k)

Terri Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 8:43 am

My windows and doors shook really hard - twice, it woke me up. It freaked me out I hope someone has something to tell us soon.

Sand and Snow Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 8:49 am](#)

This is so strange. Same deal—we are in Huntington Harbor and we heard the doors and windows rattling, but no ground shaking or chandeliers moving. Only heard it once, though. I also checked USGS and was surprised to see there were no quakes save for the morning time...spooky

Dolores Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 8:49 am](#)

I, too, felt (heard?) something last night. My patio doors started rattling - maybe for a few seconds. Then a few minutes later, another rattling. At first, I thought it was an earthquake, but there was no shaking. Then I thought it was wind, but just two blasts? Plus it was not windy. Finally, this morning, I thought I would google sonic booms in Irvine and this turned up.

I live in Irvine near the wild part of Mason Park. Just adding my location, in case anyone is mapping this.

John S. Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 8:50 am](#)

I was working with a milling machine at the approximate time so I didn't hear/feel it in GG.

Maybe the military is testing their subsonic crowd control etc.

John Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 8:51 am](#)

Felt it in HB...around 9:20. My dog started growling a few seconds before it started, and again....only windows and doors. The ground itself didn't shake...so wierd.

Bulger Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 8:51 am](#)

AURORA

Top secret hypersonic spy plane has been causing skyquakes in the LA and OC areas since the mid 1990s

Craig Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 8:55 am](#)

Dead on - 9:15 felt it in HB

haley Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 8:55 am](#)

never seen so many comments. its underground nuclear testing gettin ready for world war 3.

tom Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 8:56 am](#)

gary did u get dismissed since u work for ocr?

Kathy R Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 8:56 am](#)

Yes, there was a second something that happened, after the windows rattling, it was a few minutes later and it was like someone was trying to open my front door my front door and screen...very interesting...I would really like to get an explanation.

Al Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 9:00 am](#)

In Tustin as well. It was odd, like if the house creaked/shifted like if a very strong gust of wind hit it. Checked outside, zero wind, nothing inside the home was moving as it would in a earth quake? I guess the earths crust just wanted to do a little tweek. At the time I was expecting a stronger quake to roll in after it. Very odd.

John P Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 9:00 am

Can you please take just a little time to proofread your piece? My God, this newspaper is so amateur.

“The National Weather Service says was calm, with no down bursts.”

” This evet was largely limited to Orange County.”

Come on guys.....at least act like you care...

Aveen Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 9:00 am

We were watching American Idol so we can hardly feel anything lol but I heard a loud noise and asked hubby (what was it) he said it's an airoplane but wasn't convinsing!! it was something else! more like a very high wind!!... I didnt think of earthquack because we didnt feel any shaking but my neighbour and I talked on facebook and she said they heard door slamming!! I was so scared I really wanna know for sure what was that!!

Aveen Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 9:01 am

P.S. we're living in Irvine

Grumbles Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 9:03 am

LOL...I read the mysterious shaking column and had to laugh out loud...because my husband and I thought it was a burglar! We were in our room watching TV and I sent him out of the room to go check it out and I locked the door. After everthing checked out...we thought... was it a ghost? Lol...thought we were going crazy!

Shloemoe Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 9:03 am

I was awoken several times last night around 9:15pm.

But, I dont think it was anything like a sonic boom or earthquake.

You see my brother is a dingus. After several drinks he decided to repair, WITH A HAMMER!, the hinge screws on our hall closet....I'm sure it could be heard all across the county! I think that might have been what ya'll heard last night.

It certainly kept me up!

Sincerely, and apologetically,

Brother of Dingus

Kristi Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 9:04 am

Ladera Ranch - I was lying in bed watching TV and heard a loud boom outside my windows, which were open. I live in an apt complex and thought my downstairs neighbor was to blame. Then I heard it again a few mins later. It sounded like a slam, but my doors/windows didn't noticeably rattle. Weird!!

Jeff Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 9:06 am

La Mirada... about 920 last night.. rattle of windows.

I was in bed on my laptop and heard my windows rattle. Did not feel

like an earthquake though. No shaking. Windows blinds did not move like they do in an earthquake.

Kathleen Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 9:06 am

I live in Costa Mesa and felt/heard it too! I didn't think it was an earthquake because the ground wasn't moving. It was very strange. I, too, thought someone was around the house, even on the roof. I went outside several times looking around. Very bizarre! The windows and doors were shaking and noisy while it was shaking. Hope we find out soon.

akarae Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 9:06 am

I felt it twice in Orange Hills. My front door was rattling like someone was trying to open it. I thought someone was trying to break in. My cats were even looking at the front door like someone was there. Very CREEPY!

pickle lover Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 9:06 am

GARY - ANY UPDATES YET???

jcrewtwo Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 9:06 am

Jill Hill Says:

March 3rd, 2009 at 10:27 pm

I agree with GracieP.....and my husband wondered if a shuttle landed..>?

Perhaps it was a sonic boom created when the UFO was hovering over O.C. and then blasted into space? eh?

JV Lopez Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 9:08 am

OMG my friend said i was crazy, but now i know i'm not

Brian Lance Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 9:09 am

I wonder if this is connected to the phenomenon that occurred in San Diego for several years. This is an older (2006) article about it:
<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20060427-9999-1n27boom.html#>

JV Lopez Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 9:09 am

BTW I'm in orange by main place!

Tustin Guy Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 9:09 am

Last night I thought I was going crazy hearing it and not being able to figure out why. I have a metal patio family room and it sounded like someone was walking on the roof. But it was only two steps (as opposed to across the whole roof), so I knew it wasn't a possum or cat.. Odd, but I feel better now. Thanks Reg.!

Mike Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 9:11 am

I read the story about the asteroid too, but even with my complete lack of experience or study in the field, I can conclude that the likelihood of

that causing it is just about zero. I feel this way because, if for no other reason, this appears to be isolated to Orange County. But also because that asteroid was at about twice the altitude of most of our communications satellites.

I also have a very difficult time believing this was a military exercise, even if they were going on at the same time. An explosion large enough to be heard and experienced as far away as Brea, Huntington Beach, and especially Chino Hills, sounds more like small nuke testing than a simple exercise. That is a heck of a distance to cover, and it seems to have been experienced with almost the same level of intensity across the county.

This was, more than likely, a sonic boom created by a meteorite entering the atmosphere. Even if small, if it hit the upper layers going fast enough it can easily create this kind of phenomenon as it's burning up. And provided nobody is looking the right way at that split second, it can easily go unseen. Remember that we live on a huge rock floating in the middle of nowhere, with millions of little ones blasting around all over the place. Par for the course up there, and nothing to worry about.

Kathy Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 9:11 am](#)

We felt it around 9pm in Mission Viejo - just the windows rattled - I thought it was my kids jumping around at first - but then it happened a 2nd time and since we were all in the same room, I knew it wasn't them!

Cliff Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 9:13 am](#)

My bet that this was a flight test of a new technology that the Air Force is testing out of Area 51.

Lisa Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 9:13 am](#)

So weird to see all these posts. My front windows... but not the door rattled pretty good a couple of times. Thought it might be an earthquake but I felt nothing at all. Thought maybe wind... but no...and nobody was out on my patio. Thought that the article when I saw the headline would tell me what it was, but it seems like everyone here is just guessing as well. Very creepy.

X-DEM Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 9:14 am](#)

Things that go bump in the night. Quite possible a pulsating ram-jet passing overhead from the North to the South could distort some air pressure or emit some low frequency vibrations. It is only at night so no one can see it although one could possibly feel it.

But there is no such thing as a ram-jet aircraft, is there?

MVDad Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 9:15 am](#)

I went to bed at 9 p.m. A few minutes later, the doorknob to the bedroom door rattled. A couple minutes after that, it rattled again, as if someone was trying to get in. I got up and opened the door. I called to my wife at the computer nearby, "Did I lock you out of the room?" She said, "No, I've been right here the whole time." There was no other noise or shaking, only the doorknob making noise, as if someone was moving it.

Mike Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 9:16 am](#)

Totally weird. I was waiting for my friend to come over when I heard a fast tapping on my bedroom window. I thought it was my friend so I

yelled out to him, no reply. I looked out my window and saw no one, no wind blowing, nothing moving. I thought I was hearing things. I didn't think it was an earthquake because I didn't feel any shaking at all. When my friend did arrive he said he didn't feel or hear anything, and it wasn't him tapping on my window! Strange!

TL Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 9:16 am](#)

Placentia felt it. Both my son and I heard it. He asked 'what was that?' First thought it was wind, but leaves were not moving. At the time thought it was perhaps an animal rattling in the bushes brushing against the window. UFOs in OC?

hazel Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 9:18 am](#)

we need answers! we want the truth!

strange Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 9:19 am](#)

thought we were in for a wild ride in M.V. but after the noise no shaking. So what was it then?

tim hardoway Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 9:23 am](#)

felt in san clemente-- loud bang and short shake-- i thought something shook the roof and whole house-- it was loud after 9 pm

Cliff Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 9:23 am](#)

@X-Dem

I agree with you it was probably a ram-jet. We know the air force has been testing this technology for awhile now.

Mike Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 9:28 am](#)

If it was a test of some special military aircraft or weapon, we'll never know about it anyway. I would assume it's in the best interests of our national security to keep secret defense projects...secret. We don't want our enemies to know about it until about .1 of a second prior to impact.

SlowStriker Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 9:28 am](#)

The 2nd one was much more pronounced - more violent rattling and lasted longer. We're in Lake Forest. Definitely on the scale of a sonic boom, based on how widespread it was. Strange to have two about ten minutes apart. If, on the off chance it wasn't our military conducting secret testing, I doubt they'll acknowledge it. They'll be scrambling to figure it out in case it's a threat of some sort.

Brenda Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 9:28 am](#)

In Costa Mesa. My windows shooked. I would really like to know what REALLY happened.

Rick Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 9:30 am](#)

I'm in Costa Mesa, and I heard the strange noise on my windows as well, but the sound came mostly from the Northern facing windows, not my southern facing windows. A co-worker who lives in Anaheim said

the sound came from his East facing windows.

As others have properly concluded, this “noise” or “vibration” was not an earthquake, but a sonic event (ie. a sonic boom).

I highly doubt Camp Pendleton was doing any bomb practice so late at night. It's more likely a military plane. If the military doesn't admit to this, then its even more likely to be a secret plane they won't talk about. The other possibility, is a piece of that asteroid that just missed us the other day, that came into the atmosphere last Tuesday night.

Helena Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 9:31 am](#)

Oh my gosh, I felt this too! I was so scared...the windows rattled pretty strongly, but the ground wasn't moving. I looked at my cats because they're a good gauge when there's about to be an earthquake, but they looked fine and were completely calm.

The second time it happened, I swung open the door to see if there was anyone outside, but there wasn't. And the night was completely still, so it couldn't have been the wind. Eerie!

Greg Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 9:31 am](#)

We felt it last night in south part of Laguna Hills, similar to what everyone has reported: an interior door rattled.

But the exact same thing happened the previous night closer to midnight. There was a small earthquake reported on the USGS, so I assumed that was the cause.

4 Sho Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 9:31 am](#)

Live in san clemente,ca it happens alot this way do to san clemente island and camp pendalton loud bands ,booms and window rattling .

As 4 yesturday i heard no boom or bang, but yes i also had that suckshon type door movement as if there was a sonic boom, it also was very windy off and on yesturday, that could of been the reason for the strange events . This is normal to me iam a stay at home mom and there are times were no wind is present and this happens too my doors and the door knob even makes a rattle noise, every one was very relaxed and tuned in to there surroundings yesturday thats all.

Lady A Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 9:34 am](#)

I'm in the Santa/Orange area and didn't notice anything last night. But a couple weeks ago I was standing in the bathroom and “sensed” something, not quite sure how to explain it. Kind of like a noise in the distance, and I was sure I would feel some movement. But I didn't so I just thought it was a plane or something. Later I found out there HAD been a small earthquake at that exact time. I know animals can sense these things ahead of time (I once noticed a loud bird ruckus outside for a long time, and a few hours later we had an earthquake). I suppose it could be inner ear pressure or something, I don't know.

Thinking back to last nite, I think 9:20 is when I got bored with Idol and went downstairs to get an ice cream sandwich.

Darn, I missed out on all the fun.

Brian Lance Says:

[March 4th, 2009 at 9:45 am](#)

Rick said (<http://sciencedude.freedomblogging.com/2009/03/03/small-quake-felt-across-orange-county/20853/#comment-12051>):

“March 4th, 2009 at 9:30 am

I'm in Costa Mesa, and I heard the strange noise on my windows as well, but the sound came mostly from the Northern facing windows, not my southern facing windows. A co-worker who lives in Anaheim said

the sound came from his East facing windows.”

Interesting! Both occurrences we felt (9:15 & 9:25ish) seemed to come from the south-east. We're in the northern part of Laguna Hills, so this direction would put the source towards the Camp Pendleton area.

bobbyc Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 9:51 am

This same kind of thing happened nearly fifteen years ago (or so). Back then, most in the scientific community chalked it up to the military testing a new SUPER-supersonic aircraft (the 'Aurora' as it has been speculated).

Chance are, this recent event was a test military aircraft on its way to the Groom Lake test facility, and what you felt was a sonic-boom closer to five to ten times the speed of sound.

Like back fifteen years ago, don't expect the mystery to be solved.

snarf Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 10:08 am

I heard my screen rattle vigorously last night; I thought perhaps it was a California elected official going door to door with a collection basket.

Rick Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 10:09 am

Wasn't any blast of wind as I too, thinking same, went out on the balcony immediately and the wind chimes were still, the treetops weren't moving. Hope the science dude can find out what the heck it was. Alien forces??

Mike Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 10:19 am

Brian, our experience was from the south as well. Our south-facing patio door shook wildly for about 5 seconds, the north-facing patio door didn't move.

SEAN IN NEWPORT BEACH Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 10:32 am

I doubt this was a meteor because there appears to be a second 'shaking' of windows reported by many (I heard it too) like between 2-3 minutes later. I'd guess it was a plane dogfight exercise or a test flight of a top secret craft.

jerry from Moscow Idaho Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 10:40 am

Folks:

I had to originate from the atmosphere. I have vivid memories of when I was a kid that at late at night that would happen too. Years later I found out that the Air Force would run mid-high altitude B-52's over So Cal at max speed for their routine SAC training. The shock wave from this was large and the house would rattle, dogs in the neighborhood would start barking; just scared the bejesus out of you.

Hope this helps.

-J

lwps Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 10:40 am

In Huntington Beach, I very clearly heard the "wave" approach, strike and then pass on. Almost no shaking. Could it have been two synchronized cancelling waves?

Mom in CDM Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 10:44 am

Our windows rattled at the same time. Two different times. I think my house is haunted and thought it was a ghost. Freaked me out and couldn't sleep because we were having no wind. I'm so glad it wasn't just our house!

lwps Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 10:46 am

I agree it was probably some military test. Read the newspaper, and you can see that they are very worried about the missile launch from North Korea.

SM Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 10:55 am

sciencedude!!! Where are you?! Aren't you done with jury duty yet?

PhotoJoe Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 10:57 am

jerry from Moscow Idaho Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 10:40 am

. I have vivid memories of when I was a kid that at late at night that would happen too. Years later I found out that the Air Force would run mid-high altitude B-52's over So Cal at max speed for their routine SAC training. The shock wave from this was large and the house would rattle, dogs in the neighborhood would start barking; just scared the bejesus out of you.

Hope this helps.

– REPLY –

B-52s are decidedly sub-sonic and won't create a sonic boom. The booms they make have more to do with the items they drop (which subsequently explode.)

I can't imagine you saying they were bombing Southern California.

Duh Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 10:57 am

I didn't take time to read all the comments, but was thinking that there may have been an explosion somewhere, like from a fire possibly? I remember many years ago when I was working at John Wayne Airport. We were sitting inside our office and there was a loud noise and the windows and doors rattled. We thought it was sonic boom, but there wasn't a second boom like there usually is with them. Anyway, the next day we learned that there had been a fire at one of those gas refineries over in Wilmington and they had something explode over there at that same exact time. It was weird that we felt and heard that explosion from Wilmington all the way over at John Wayne Airport. Many, many miles.

So it could have been a military thing at Camp Pendleton or some sort of a secret military test flight. I would imagine that if it were from a local fire, we would already have had our answer. The plot thickens...

Rick Says:

March 4th, 2009 at 10:58 am

Brian, my apartment is slightly skewed in its placement, so my windows don't face exactly North or exactly South. I'm also within a mile of the ocean. I just checked on Google Maps and my windows face NorthWest and SouthWest, with the latter pointing down the coast and possibly over the ocean. My southwest windows are also blocked by the close proximity with another building. Perhaps in my case, the building blocked my south facing windows???? I heard the sound and my first thought was "earthquake," but as I felt my computer desk, I realized it wasn't an earthquake at all. I literally got up to see what was going on, on the Northwest side of the apartment. It actually sounded like someone was trying to get in somehow, but I didn't feel it was coming

from my door, which faces more Northeast (but is blocked as well). I looked out the windows first, then went outside and looked around, but I didn't see anything. I heard my neighbors inside their door talking, so I just chalked it up to the neighbors just getting home and them coming up the stairway, until I read this story this morning.

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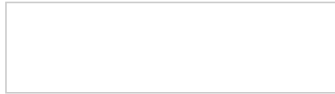
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