

The earthquake

April 6th 2009

Time 03:32:39





On April the 6th, 2009 at 03:32:39 a.m. local time, a powerful earthquake struck the province of L'Aquila, in the Abruzzo region. The earthquake, measuring magnitude of 5.8 on the Richter scale and VIII – IX on the Mercalli scale, was felt all over central Italy. Many buildings in the historical centre of the city collapsed and a large number of frightened people poured into the streets. The epicentre was localized between Collimonto hamlet, and Villagrande village hamlets and the northern part of the city. The area had been affected by a frequent seismicity, in the form of a seismic wave, from January 2009, with hundreds minor shocks, to March 30th when a seismic event measuring magnitude of 4.0 on the Richeter scale occurred. The earthquake has been characterized by an extensional mechanism with NW-SE oriented fault planes and a NE-SW oriented extension (anti-Appenine). In the past, this region was hit by huge earthquakes. In particular, the seismic activity has been recorded among the Northern end of the fault activated by the earthquake of 1703 (an intensity of X degree MCS, equal to a magnitude of about 6.7 on the Richeter scale) and the Northern limits of the fault related, according to the catalogues, to the earthquake of 1349 and of the so-called "Ovindoli – Piani di Pezza" fault.

EVENT TECHNICAL DATA

magnitude	5.8
date time	06-04-2009 03.32.39 Italian time 06-04-2009 01.32.39 UTC time
coordinates	42.334° N 13.534 E
depth	8.8 km
seismic district	L'Aquila provence area

PROVINCE OF L'AQUILA

municipalities	108
resident population	297.424
male	144.255
female	153.169

MUNICIPALITY OF L'AQUILA

resident population	68503
male	33.113
female	35390
population density for kmq	146.67

