After earthquake, large portions of library to be closed due to ventilation system repairs

BY SAMUEL MOUNTJOY – POSTED ON APRIL 6, 2014
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A correction was made to this story on May 5.

As a result of the earthquake that struck Cal State Fullerton on March 27, floors two through six of Pollak Library South will be closed while repairs are made to the building’s ventilation systems.

Initial inspections indicate that there is no evidence the 5.1 quake centered in La Habra and subsequent aftershocks compromised the structural safety of any buildings in any way, said provost Jose Cruz, Ph.D., in an email to the campus community Friday.

Students and professors returning to campus Monday are cautioned that items in their offices and classrooms may have been shifted or damaged during the earthquake.

Damage assessment may change as the campus population returns to offices and living spaces. Employees are encouraged to report significant issues to Facilities Operations’ Work Control Center.

With non-functioning ventilation, some parts of the library have become exceedingly warm. Signs in the library Sunday alert patrons that many services in the south side of the library have been moved to the north side of the library.

Workers are in the process of reshelving books that fell during the quake and making minor repairs to ceiling tiles which became dislodged. Crews were still working Sunday to move equipment from the south side of the library.

Metal gates wrapped in yellow caution tape closed off access to the affected areas.

The Chicana and Chicano Resource Center will remain open, but it will only be accessible from the outside of the building.

All phone numbers for affected services remain the same.

No classrooms will be affected by the closures.

Cracks can be seen in building surfaces, but this damage is minor and not indicative of greater structural damage.

The upper floors of Langsdorf Hall and the Humanities Building received the bulk of the minor damage caused by the temblor, where the shaking was more exaggerated.

Professors living in University Gables, a housing project for CSUF faculty and staff in Buena Park, reported heavy shaking and damage to items that fell off shelves and walls.

Elevators in College Park and other buildings were not functioning until the day after the quake.

The 5.1 earthquake had an epicenter less than one mile from La Habra, and three miles north of Fullerton.

Foreshocks, smaller temblors that occur just before a larger one, occurred at 8:03 p.m. and 8:16 p.m. with the 5.1 quake felt at 9:09 p.m. As of April 2, 211 aftershocks have occurred, according to the USGS—the largest was a 4.1 shock.

The Orange County Register reported the quake caused $2 million in damage in La Habra, Brea and Fullerton.
In Fullerton, 13 water mains broke and about 70 residents were displaced from their homes when they were declared temporarily uninhabitable.

"Immediately after the earthquake, we activated our Emergency Operations Center which led to our quick responses to repair water leaks and ensure the safety of buildings in our city," said Fullerton Mayor Doug Chaffee in a statement released last week. "Thankfully, there were no injuries reported as a result of the earthquake."

Library services that have moved to Pollak Library North include the following:

• Circulation desk has moved to the first and fourth floors.
• Interlibrary loan will move to PLN 121
• Course reserves have moved to the fourth floor.
• Library administrative offices will move to PLN 321 and PLN 322
• Library Systems and University Archives staff move to PLN 420 and PLN 445.

I.T. and computer services that have moved:

• Titan Card has moved to the second floor
• Public computers have moved to the fourth floor
• Information technology administrative offices located in the library will move to PLN 30.
• Telecommunications Office will move to the 7th floor of Langsdorf Hall

Centers affected by the library maintenance:

• Chicana and Chicano Resource Center will remain on first floor, but will only be accessible from outside
• The Center for Oral and Public History will relocate to PLN 30
• The Academic Technology Center service desk moves to the second floor of Pollak Library North, where Digital Print Services is located

TAGS: Cal State Fullerton, CSUF, earthquake, Langsdorf Hall, Pollak Library, University Gables

About Samuel Mountjoy
Sam is a senior journalism major who has been working in student publications since high school. He was previously the editor-in-chief of a community college newspaper in the Palm Springs area. His first Titan byline came less than two months after he transferred to CSUF. Sam has been known to chase after sirens in hopes of a story, and hopes to soon become a professional news reporter.

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