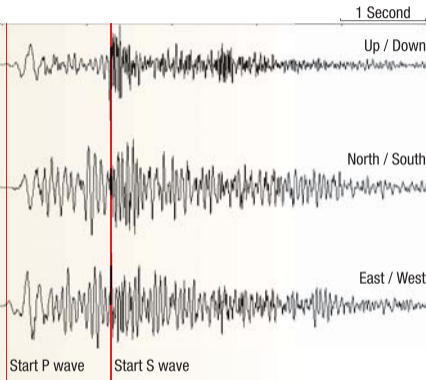
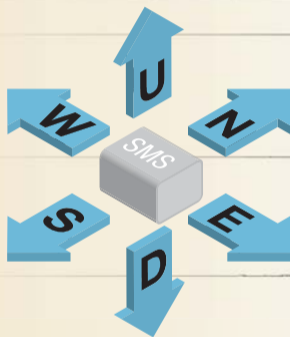


Earthquakes 101

Two basic types of seismic waves travel at different speeds through the earth. The faster P waves alternately compress and dilate the earth in the direction of the wave. The slower S waves move like an ocean wave perpendicular to the direction of the wave.

Strong Motion Seismographs measure P waves and S waves in three directions: north-south, east-west, and up-down. The time measured between the start of these waves helps determine the distance of the quake.

Magnitude is a measure of the amount of energy released by a slip on a fault during an earthquake. On the Richter Scale, the strength of ground shaking increases by a factor of 10 for each increase in the magnitude. Thus, a magnitude 5.0 earthquake causes ground shaking 10 times greater than a magnitude 4.0 and 100 times greater than a magnitude 3.0.



Noted Montana earthquakes since 1925

