

6.1 Quake Strikes Japan, Kills 3

18/06/2018



Earlier Monday a 6.1-magnitude earthquake shook Osaka, Japan resulting in the deaths of three people and injury of hundred others.

Broadcaster NHK said collapsing walls had killed an 80-year-old man and a 9-year-old girl, and that another man in his 80s was killed after being crushed by a toppling bookcase. The epicenter of the quake was north of Osaka city, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

The earthquake hit at 7:58 a.m. and occurred at a depth of about 13 kilometers in the northern part of Osaka Prefecture, the Meteorological Agency said. There have been no reports of a tsunami.

Disaster management minister Hachiro Okonogi claimed that people were reportedly trapped under rubble. Osaka prefecture has a population of 8.8 million. More than 170,000 households lost power for about two hours.

The tremor sparked fires, interrupted industrial production and broke water mains, government officials said. Panasonic and Daihatsu Motor Co were among companies that halted production at plants.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said authorities were assessing damage and that the government's priority was the safety of the people.

On March 11, 2011, a huge magnitude-9.0 quake struck northeastern Japan triggering a tsunami that killed some 18,000 people and caused the world's worst nuclear disaster in a quarter of a century.