

Richter Scale

- Measures the **Magnitude** of an earthquake on a ten (10) point scale.
- In 1935, Charles Richter introduced the concept of earthquake magnitude.
- Richter magnitude is determined by measuring the largest amplitude (wave height) recorded on the seismogram.
- Largest recorded earthquake had a Richter magnitude equal to 8.6

Richter Magnitude	Effects Near Epicenter
< 2.0	Generally not felt, but recorded
2.0 - 2.9	Felt under special conditions
3.0 - 3.9	Felt by some
4.0 - 4.9	Felt by most
5.0 - 5.9	Damaging shock waves
6.0 - 6.9	Destructive in populated regions
7.0 - 7.9	Major earthquakes
> 8.0	Great earthquakes