



Earthquake: Rodgers Creek Fault

Introduction

In 2016, the U.S. Geological Survey published a study, led by Suzanne Hecker, lead geologist, and released a new map showing the Rodgers Creek Fault. It is known as a strike-slip fault and runs from San Pablo Bay at the southern tip of Sonoma County north through Santa Rosa to Healdsburg. It is likely an extension of the Hayward Fault. This story was printed in the Press Democrat; for more details www.pressdemocrat.com/article/news/new-maps-detail-wider-rodgers-creek-fault-through-santa-rosa

The Study

- Instead of a single fault line, there is a network of fault lines and intersecting fragments running through Santa Rosa
 - ⇒ one passes close to through the Santa Rosa French American Charter School on Sonoma Ave
 - ⇒ another passes nearby, just east of the Community Baptist Church
 - ⇒ others run beneath Brook Hill and Proctor Terrace elementary schools as well as the Town and Country Shopping Center
- There is a “stuck patch” that is building up pressure in the fault
- If the “stuck patch” causes an earthquake, it could cause strong shaking
- According to the USGS, there is a 31% likelihood of a magnitude-6.7 quake or greater in the next 30 years along the Rodgers Fault
- Any major earthquake on the Rodgers Creek fault could prove to be a “double whammy” for Santa Rosa
 - ⇒ the city sits in a basin of thick sediment
 - ⇒ that easily transmits shockwaves
 - ⇒ that can make shaking worse during large quakes
- “It's an opportunity to really remind people that they can do things to remain earthquake safe,” Suzanne Hecker said

