



"Then we shall go there. Can you please get word to Dr. Edward Cabot at the hospital, and let him know where we are?"

The officer repeated the name and tipped his hat. "Yes, ma'am, I'll take this gentleman to see him right now. Best be getting along now."

Although he was frightened, Louis did not let it show. He looked at his mother's calm face and realized that she too was hiding her fear. He could tell by the tight lines around her mouth. He took her hand and she smiled at him.

Dozens of people joined them as they traveled along Market Street. People picked their way over cracks in the street and around spots flooded by broken water mains. Snapped by the quake, power poles dangled by their electric lines.

They paused and surveyed the wreckage of a bank. Its huge safe had fallen through the floor and lay on its side in a deep hole. Several police officers stood on guard. "Move along, move along!" shouted one of the officers. "Nothing to see here!"

The Magnitude of EARTHQUAKES

Magnitude is the way that scientists measure the amount of energy released by an earthquake.

The magnitude scale for earthquakes is based on mathematical formulas called *logarithms*. On the magnitude scale, each whole number reflects 10 times the intensity and 31 times the energy of the previous number. Therefore, a quake of 6.0 is actually 10 times more intense and releases 31 times the energy of a quake of 5.0.

The San Francisco earthquake of 1906 is estimated to have had a magnitude of 7.8.

Quake Magnitude Scale



- A quake that registers less than 2.0 on the magnitude scale is called a microquake and would probably not be felt by humans.
- Quakes between 2.0 and 4.9 might be felt but would probably not cause much damage.
- Quakes between 5.0 and 5.9 are considered “moderate” and could cause damage to poorly constructed buildings.
- Quakes between 6.0 and 6.9 are likely to be felt by everyone in the area and can be destructive.
- Quakes between 7.0 and 7.9 are considered to be major earthquakes and can cause serious damage over large areas.
- Quakes of 8.0 and above are considered “great” earthquakes, and their damage can be devastating.