

Pacific “ring of fire” earthquakes

The Java earthquake is now known to have killed almost 5,500 people and injured up to 20,000. Following the quake, major tremors also shook the islands of Tonga and Papua New Guinea. The Pacific Rim region is known as the “ring of fire” after the seismic fault lines which surround it

Major tectonic boundaries

RECENT EARTHQUAKES

- 1 Japan, Jan 1995:** Kobe hit by country's worst quake for 50 years – magnitude 7.2 – killing 6,430
- 2 Papua New Guinea, Jul 1998:** Undersea quake magnitude 7.1 triggers three tsunamis, killing 2,100
- 3 Taiwan, Sep 1999:** 2,100 killed by magnitude 7.6 quake
- 4 Indonesia, Dec 2004:** Undersea quake magnitude 9.15 triggers massive tsunami, killing up to 300,000 people around the Indian Ocean
- 5 Indonesia, Mar 2005:** Quake magnitude 8.7 kills 1,000

Java, Indonesia,
May 27, 5.54am:
Magnitude 6.3 quake

Papua New Guinea,
May 28, 1.12pm:
Magnitude 6.2 quake

Tonga, May 28, 4.36pm:
Magnitude 6.7 quake

Sources: Wire agencies, USGS
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