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California desert braces for after-shocks from second, stronger quake



Fissures that opened up under a highway during a powerful earthquake that struck Southern California are seen near the city of Ridgecrest

RIDGECREST, Calif. (Reuters) - High desert communities in Southern California on Saturday braced for potentially dangerous aftershocks from a major earthquake that damaged buildings, ruptured gas lines and sparked fires near the remote epicenter of the second temblor in as many days.

The powerful magnitude 7.1 tremor rocked the Mojave Desert town of Ridgecrest south of Death Valley National Park as darkness fell on Friday, jolting the area with eight times more force than a 6.4 quake that struck the same area 34 hours earlier.

California Governor Gavin Newsom requested federal assistance and placed the state Office of Emergency Services (OES) on its highest alert.

"We have significant reports of fires, structural fires, mostly as a result of gas leaks or gas-line breaks," OES Director Mark Ghilarducci told a late-night news conference on Friday.

Violent shaking also caused water-main breaks and knocked out power and communications to parts of Ridgecrest, home to about 27,000 people some 125 miles (200 km) northeast of Los Angeles

No fatalities or serious injuries were reported from either quake, police said. "This was a very large earthquake, and we also know there's going to be a series of aftershocks as a result of the main quake," Ghilarducci said, adding that his agency faces a challenge getting resources to the isolated quake zone. "This is not going to be something that's going to be over right away."

Overnight, about six hours after the main quake, the center of Ridgecrest was quiet, except for the occasional rumble of aftershocks. Some residents could be seen sitting on lawn chairs in the darkness outside. The garage doors of many homes were left open with a car parked on the driveway.

The massive U.S. Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake just northwest of town was evacuated of all non-essential personnel following the quake.

The facility, which at more than 1.1 million acres (445,000 hectares) is larger than the state of Rhode Island, reported no injuries. Authorities were assessing any damage to buildings or other infrastructure, according to a post on the base's Facebook page.



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Trump says immigration raids coming 'fairly soon'

(Reuters) - President Donald Trump said on Friday mass deportation roundups would begin "fairly soon" as U.S. migrant advocates vowed their communities would be "ready" when immigration officers come.

Trump, who has made a hardline immigration stance a key issue of his presidency and 2020 re-election bid, postponed the operation last month after the date was leaked, but on Monday he said it would take place after July 4.

"They'll be starting fairly soon, but I don't call them raids, we're removing people, all of these people who have come in over the years illegally," he told reporters at the White House on Friday.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) last month said operations would target recently-arrived undocumented migrants in a bid to discourage a surge of Central American families at the southwest border.

ICE said in a statement its focus was arresting people with criminal histories but any immigrant found in violation of U.S. laws was subject to arrest.

Government documents published this week by migrant rights groups showed some past ICE operations resulted in more so-called "collateral" arrests of undocumented migrants agents happened to find, than apprehensions of targeted people.

Migrant rights groups said this generalized threat is harmful to communities, and the U.S. economy, as it forces adults to miss work and children to skip school out of fear they may be picked up and separated.

"We have to be ready, not just when Trump announces it, because there are arrests every day," said Elsa Lopez, an organizer for Somos Un Pueblo Unido, a New Mexico group which educates migrants on their civil rights and creates phone networks to send alerts if ICE enters their neighborhood.

The threatened raids come after migrant apprehensions on the southwest border hit a 13-year high in May before easing in June as Mexico increased immigration enforcement.

A rising number of migrants are coming from outside Central America, including India, Cuba and African countries. The Del Rio, Texas, Border Patrol sector on Friday reported the arrest of over 1,000 Haitians since June 10.



Demonstrators march during the Never Again Para Nadie protest against ICE Detention camps in Boston



An overcrowded area holding families at a Border Patrol Centralized Processing Center is seen in McAllen

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Editor's Choice



Law enforcement officers detain a man during a protest rally held by Kazakh opposition supporters in Almaty, Kazakhstan July 6, 2019. REUTERS/Pavel Mikheyev TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Rescue workers place a woman on a stretcher as they search for survivors in the rubble after earthquakes hit Changning county in Yibin, Sichuan province, China June 18, 2019. China Daily via REUTERS ATTENTION EDITORS -



Participants take part in the annual Pride in London parade, in London, Britain July 6, 2019. REUTERS/Henry Nicholls TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Fissures that opened up under a highway during a powerful earthquake that struck Southern California are seen near the city of Ridgecrest



Linemen repair lines that were broken during a powerful earthquake that struck Southern California, near the epicenter, northeast the city of Ridgecrest



Signs sway during tremors felt at a supermarket in Hawthorne, California, U.S. during an earthquake that hit Southern California in this still frame taken from social media video dated July 5, 2019



Fissures that opened up under a highway during a powerful earthquake that struck Southern California are seen near the city of Ridgecrest



Hospital workers set up equipment after a powerful earthquake struck Southern California in the city of Ridgecrest

Quest Diagnostics, one of the largest blood testing providers in the country, warned last Monday that nearly 12 million of its customers may have had personal, financial and medical information breached due to an issue with one of its vendors.

In a filing with securities regulators, Quest said it was notified that between Aug. 1, 2018, and March 30, 2019, that someone had unauthorized access to the systems of AMCA, a billing collections vendor.

“(The) information on AMCA’s affected system included financial information (e.g., credit card numbers and bank account information), medical information and other personal information (e.g., Social Security Numbers),” Quest said in the filing.

The clinical laboratory company said in a release that an “unauthorized user” gained access to a system used by American Medical Collection Agency (AMCA), a billing vendor hired by a Quest contractor called Optum360.



Quest said the information that may have been exposed included Social Security numbers and medical information, but not test results.

AMCA first notified Quest on May 14 of “potential unauthorized activity” on its payment page, Quest said. Two weeks later, according to Quest, AMCA then told Quest and Optum360 more about the breach, including the number of patients potentially affected and what information was accessed.

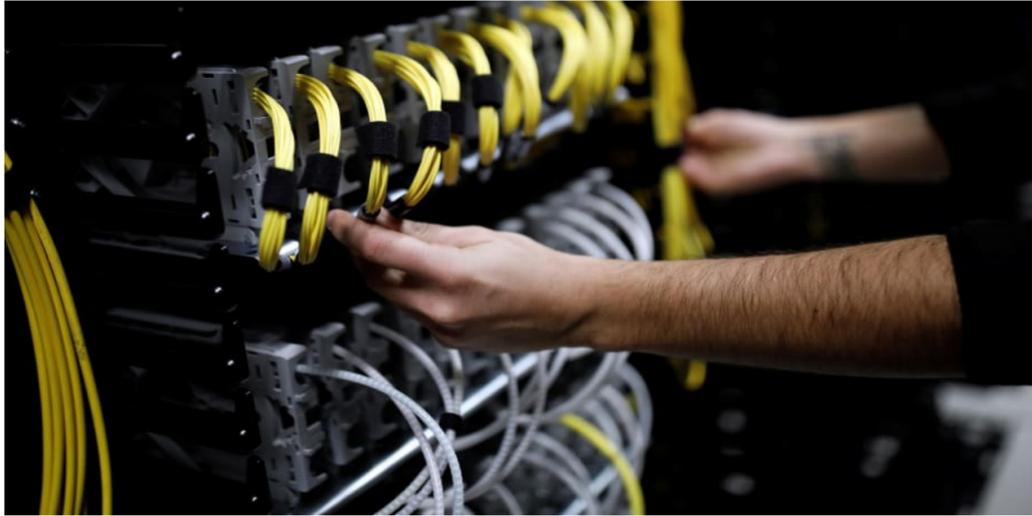
Quest (DGX) said it has suspended using AMCA and that it was using “forensic experts” to examine the issue.

It also said that AMCA has not provided “detailed or complete information” about the hack, including which customers might have been affected.

In a statement to CNN Business, Op-

Breach Includes Credit Card Numbers And Bank Account Information, According To A Filing

Quest Diagnostics Says Up To 12 Million Patients May Have Had Financial, Medical And Personal Information Exposed



OVERVIEW

Quest Diagnostics, one of the nation’s biggest blood testing providers, warned millions of its customers may have had information breached. In a filing with securities regulators, Quest said it was notified that someone had unauthorized access to a vendor’s systems for 7 months. Quest said it was told that as of May 31, information on roughly 11.9 million of its patients was stored on the affected system.

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Optum360 said its data systems “were not impacted” and said that security is “critically important to us, and we are actively working with Quest and AMCA to understand this issue and ensure appropriate actions are being taken.”

AMCA also released a statement saying it’s investigating the incident and remains “committed to our system’s security, data privacy, and the protection of personal information.”

“We are committed to keeping our pa-

tients, health care providers, and all relevant parties informed as we learn more,” Quest said in the release.



Quest’s stock was unchanged on the news. The company has roughly 2,200 locations across the United States, according to its website.

While customers’ broad medical information might have been compromised, Quest said AMCA did not have access to actual lab test results, and so therefore that data was not impacted.

Quest said it was told that as of May 31, information on roughly 11.9 million of its patients was stored on the affected

AMCA system.

The company said it has not received “detailed or complete” information from AMCA about the breach yet.

“Quest Diagnostics takes this matter very seriously and is committed to the privacy and security of patients’ personal, medical and financial information,” the company added in the filing.



In a statement later Monday, the firm representing the American Medical Collection System said it was investigating the “data incident.”

“Upon receiving information from a security compliance firm that works with credit card companies of a possible security compromise, we conducted an internal review, and then took down our web payments page,” the statement said.

“We hired a third-party external forensics firm to investigate any potential security breach in our systems, migrated our web payments portal services to a third-party vendor, and retained additional experts to advise on, and implement, steps to increase our systems’ security. We have also advised law enforcement of this incident. We remain committed to our system’s security, data privacy, and the protection of personal information.” (Courtesy https://www.nbcnewyork.com)

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SpaceX Launches The First Batch Of 60 Satellites In Starlink Satellites Project



View of the 60 Starlink Satellites from the May 24, 2019 launch (Credits - Wikimedia Commons)

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

SpaceX, the space transportation company founded by Elon Musk successfully launched 60 of its Starlink satellites. If everything goes properly, then the Starlink network of satellites can provide superfast internet connectivity across the globe. Before the launch of the satellites from Cape Canaveral, Florida, SpaceX announced that Starlink will make the entire earth connected through reliable and cheap broadband connectivity.

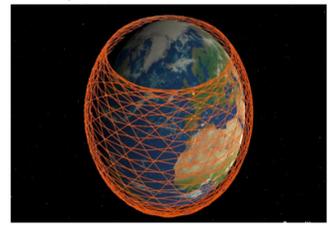
The first Starlink mission was broadcast by SpaceX which was launched by a Falcon 9 rocket at 10:30 pm ET on 24th May. Just over an hour of the liftoff, all the 30000 pounds of satellites were deployed by the rockets' upper stage. This is the heaviest payload which the SpaceX has launched till date.



Launching of the Falcon 9 rocket. The size of an individual satellite is almost that of an office desk and its weight is closely 500 pounds. It is equipped with solar pan-

els and has antennas present for transmission of data. Besides that, the spacecraft has an ion engine which releases krypton gas. It would prevent the Starlink satellite colliding with other satellites and avoid space junk. Once it nears its useful life, it would self-destruct. The engine will also power the satellite to an orbit of 550 kilometres above Earth.

The present batch of satellites lack a major component, laser beam interlinks. The future satellites will have these lasers for connecting with other four satellites. In this way, it will form a strong mesh network over Earth facilitating the internet speed almost to that of light's speed in a vacuum. It is almost 50% greater than fibre-optic cables giving the Starlink satellites a great advantage over the current status.



The Starlink satellites will form a strong mesh network over Earth facilitating the internet speed almost to that of light's speed in a vacuum.

SpaceX aims to deploy 12000 similar satellites before the deadline of 2027 set by the Federal Communications Commission. For reaching this goal, SpaceX needs to launch more than a mission per month through the next eight years. However, for making the concept work and generate revenue, it needs to launch only 1000 satellites which is way less than 12000. (Courtesy <https://sciencehook.com>)

Related The Starlink Satellite Program

Starlink is a satellite constellation development project underway by American company SpaceX, to develop a low-cost, high-performance satellite bus and requisite customer ground transceivers to implement a new space-based Internet communication system. SpaceX also plans to sell satellites that use a satellite bus that may be used for military,[4] scientific or exploratory purposes.

SpaceX has plans to deploy nearly 12,000 satellites in three orbital shells by the mid-2020s: initially placing approximately 1600 in a 550-kilometer (340 mi)-altitude shell, subsequently placing ~2800 Ku- and Ka-band spectrum sats at 1,150 km (710 mi) and ~7500 V-band sats at 340 km (210 mi). [6] The total cost of the decade-long project to design, build and deploy such a network is estimated at nearly US\$10 billion.



60 satellites installed on the launch spacecraft.

History 2015-2017

The communication satellite network SpaceX envisions was publicly announced in January 2015, with the projected design

capability to support sufficient bandwidth to carry up to 50% of all backhaul communications traffic, and up to 10% of local Internet traffic, in high-density cities. CEO Elon Musk said that there is significant unmet demand for low-cost global broadband capabilities.

By March 2017, SpaceX filed plans with the FCC to field a second orbital shell of more than 7500 "V-band satellites in non-geosynchronous orbits to provide communications services" in an electromagnetic spectrum that has not previously been heavily employed for commercial communications services. Called the "V-band low-Earth orbit (VLEO) constellation," it would consist of 7,518 satellites and would orbit at just 340 kilometres (210 mi) altitude, while the smaller originally-planned group of 4,425 satellites would operate in the Ka- and Ku-bands and orbit at 1,200 kilometres (750 mi) altitude.

2018-2019

In May 2018, SpaceX expected the total cost of development and buildout of the constellation to approach US\$10 billion. In mid-2018, SpaceX reorganized the satellite development division in Redmond, and fired several members of senior management.[13]



In November 2018, SpaceX received US regulatory approval to deploy 7,518 broadband satellites, in addition to the 4,425 approved earlier. SpaceX's initial 4,425 satellites had been requested in the 2016 regulatory filings to orbit at altitudes of 1,110 km to 1,325 km, well above the ISS. The new approval was for the addition of

a very-low Earth orbit NGSO [non-geostationary satellite orbit] constellation, consisting of 7,518 satellites operating at altitudes from 335 km to 346 km, below the ISS.

Launches

The deployment of the first 1,584 satellites will be into 40 orbital planes of 66 satellites each, with a requested lower minimum elevation angle of beams to improve reception: 25 degrees rather than the 40 degrees of the other two orbital shells.

SpaceX launched the first 60 satellites of the constellation in May 2019 into a 450 km orbit and expected up to six launches in 2019 at that time, with 720 satellites for continuous coverage in 2020.

Global broadband Internet

SpaceX intends to provide broadband internet connectivity to underserved areas of the planet, as well as provide competitively-priced service to urban areas. The company has stated that the positive cashflow from selling satellite internet services would be necessary to fund their Mars plans.



Starlink satellite in orbit. Use beyond Earth

In the long term, SpaceX intends to develop and deploy a version of the satellite communication system to serve Mars. (Courtesy Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

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