

**Earthquakes In and Near the Northeastern United States, 1638-1998**

By Russell L. Wheeler, Nathan K. Travis, Arthur C. Tarr, and Anthony J. Cross  
2001

**About This Map**  
This map shows the regional pattern of earthquake distribution in and near the northeastern United States. It was prepared for a project sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Northeast Earthquake Commission (NESEC).

The most common type of seismic event in the northeastern U.S. is an extensional strike-slip fault. These are most common in the New York and Pennsylvania regions. They are caused by the extension of the crust, which is a result of the Atlantic Ocean basin widening.

The location of the earthquake's focus is usually, typically by several kilometers (miles) or more. Characteristics are larger where topographic depressions (the troughs of the troughs) are the largest, and the topography that remained before the development of the troughs. In fact, the intensity and frequency of some tidal earthquakes were so significant that they were recorded in the eastern U.S. during the 1700s.

**1744**



The severe December 1744 earthquake in Boston, Massachusetts, during the time of the earthquake of 1744, destroyed many of the buildings in Boston, Massachusetts. Being a significant 5.7 earthquake that occurred in 1744, destroyed many of the buildings in Boston, Massachusetts. Being a significant 5.7 earthquake that occurred in 1744, destroyed many of the buildings in Boston, Massachusetts.



The severe December 1744 earthquake in Boston, Massachusetts, during the time of the earthquake of 1744, destroyed many of the buildings in Boston, Massachusetts. Being a significant 5.7 earthquake that occurred in 1744, destroyed many of the buildings in Boston, Massachusetts.

**1755**

On October 7, 1755, the Great Earthquake struck the eastern coast of the United States. The earthquake was felt in the area of the earthquake of 1755, destroyed many of the buildings in Boston, Massachusetts.

**DAMAGE HERE SLIGHT IN 'QUAKE**  
Hollis Tot Killed By Milk Truck  
NASHUA TELEGRAPH

**WARSHIPS POUR DEATH**  
Albania  
NASHUA TELEGRAPH

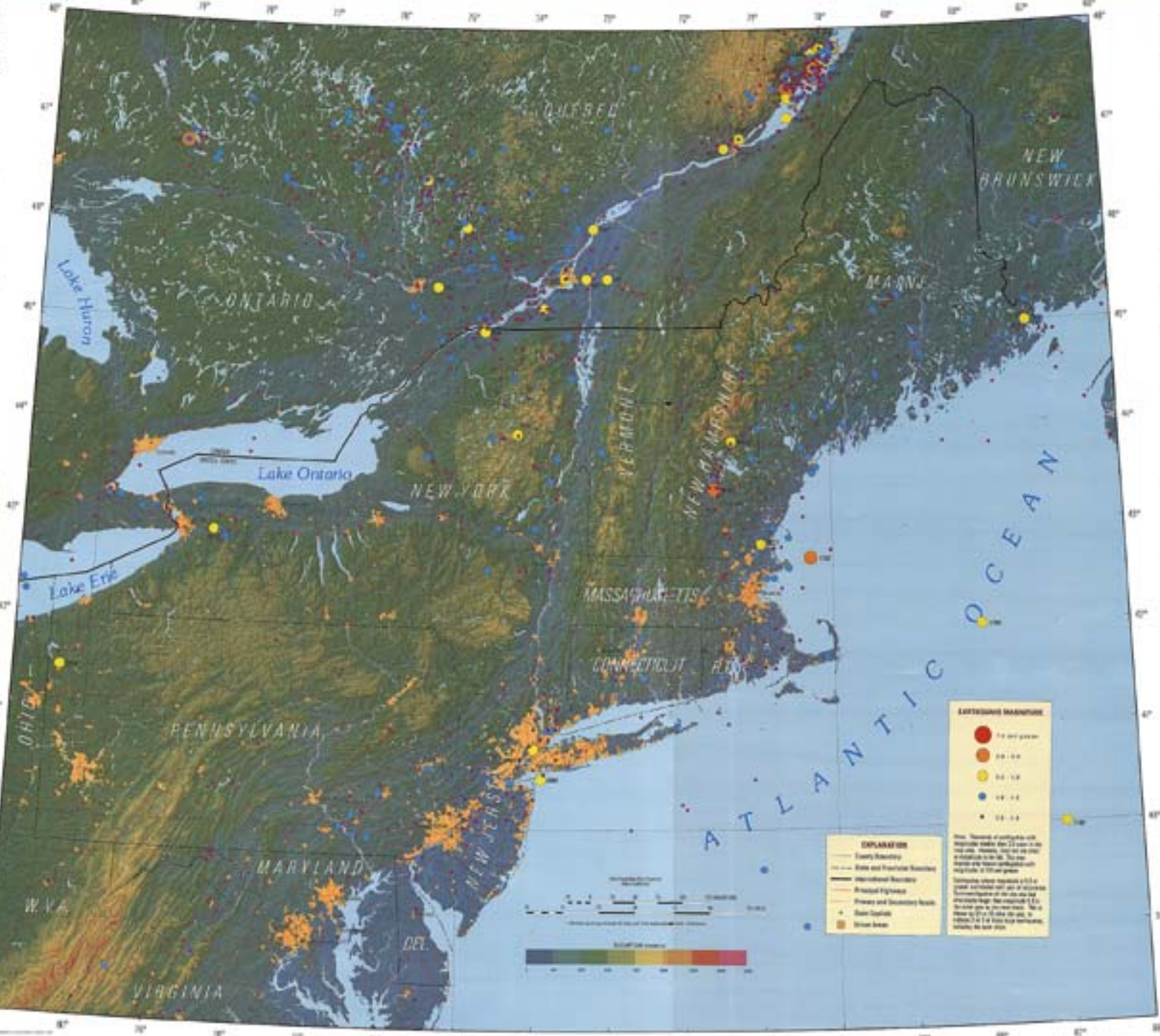
**SECOND 'QUAKE HITS NASHUA**  
NASHUA TELEGRAPH

**LOCAL MEN PURCHASE AMERICAN BOX**  
AND LUMBER PLANT; WILL EMPLOY 100  
New England

**1940**



Prepared in cooperation with the Northeast Earthquake Commission (NESEC)



**Notable Earthquakes**  
Although most of the notable earthquakes shown on this map were related to tectonic plate movement, some were related to volcanic activity. The following table lists some of the most significant earthquakes in the region.

<b>1638</b> M 4.0 The first recorded earthquake in the region, occurring in the New York area.	<b>1744</b> M 5.7 A significant earthquake in Boston, Massachusetts, during the time of the earthquake of 1744.
<b>1755</b> M 5.0 The Great Earthquake of 1755, which struck the eastern coast of the United States.	<b>1886</b> M 5.4 A significant earthquake in Charleston, South Carolina, during the time of the earthquake of 1886.
<b>1918</b> M 5.0 A significant earthquake in the New York area, during the time of the earthquake of 1918.	<b>1925</b> M 5.0 A significant earthquake in the New York area, during the time of the earthquake of 1925.
<b>1944</b> M 2.1 A significant earthquake in the New York area, during the time of the earthquake of 1944.	<b>1964</b> M 2.1 A significant earthquake in the New York area, during the time of the earthquake of 1964.
<b>1984</b> M 2.1 A significant earthquake in the New York area, during the time of the earthquake of 1984.	<b>1998</b> M 2.1 A significant earthquake in the New York area, during the time of the earthquake of 1998.

**Source of Information**  
The data for this map were obtained from the following sources: the National Earthquake Information Center (NEIC), the United States Geological Survey (USGS), and the Northeast Earthquake Commission (NESEC).

**Technical Notes for Seismologists**  
The symbols for earthquake locations and magnitudes are based on the following scale: 1.0 to 1.9 (small blue dot), 2.0 to 2.9 (small yellow dot), 3.0 to 3.9 (small orange dot), 4.0 to 4.9 (small red dot), 5.0 to 5.9 (medium red dot), 6.0 to 6.9 (large red dot), 7.0+ (very large red dot).

**Acknowledgments**  
The authors of this map would like to thank the following individuals for their assistance in the preparation of this map: [List of names]

**THE SPRINGFIELD UNION**  
**QUAKE ROCKS EASTERN SECTION OF U. S.**  
Allies Take Antwerp, Brussels, into Holland



**1998**

