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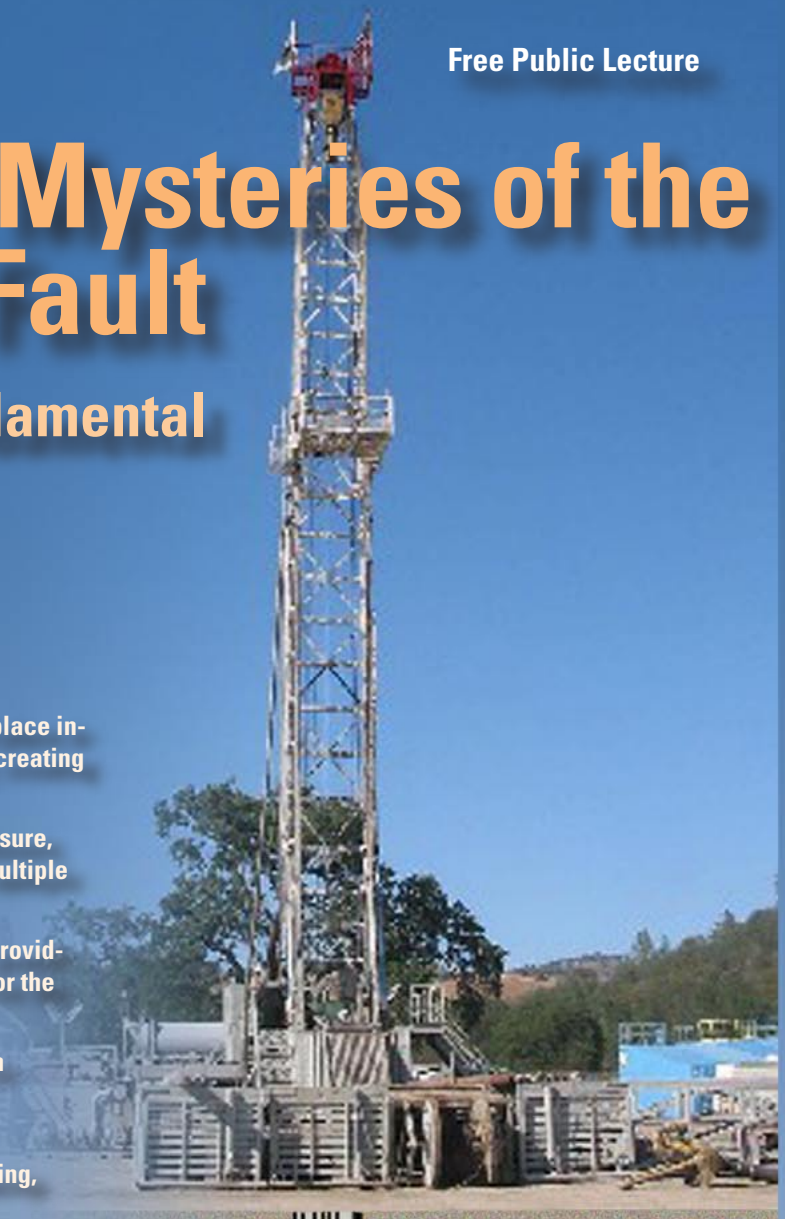
Free Public Lecture

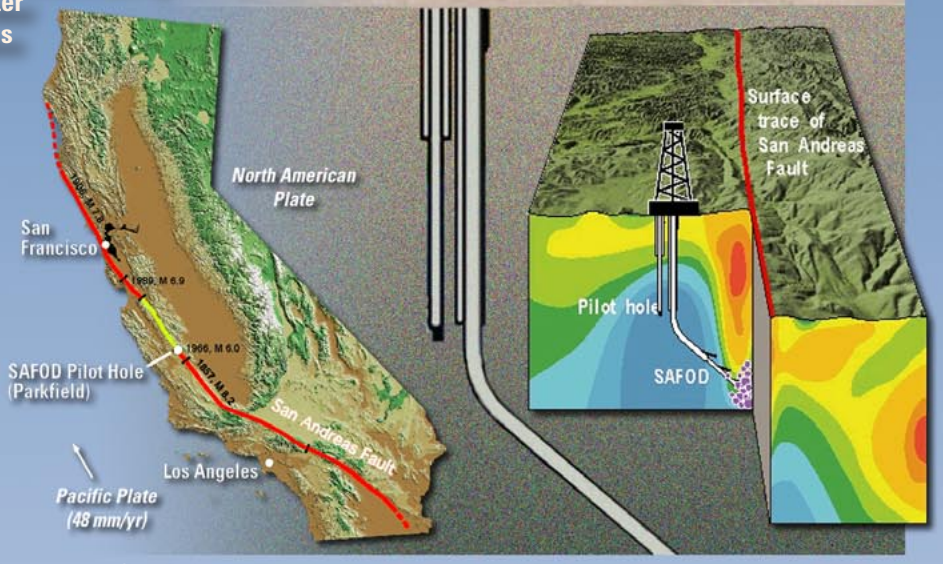
Plumbing the Mysteries of the San Andreas Fault

Deep Drilling to Test Fundamental Theories About Faulting and Earthquakes

By Stephen H. Hickman, Geophysicist



- Scientists will make measurements, obtain samples and place instruments directly within the fault at a depth of 2.5 miles, creating the San Andreas Fault Observatory at Depth (SAFOD)
- SAFOD's instruments will continuously measure fluid pressure, deformation, temperature, and seismic shaking through multiple earthquake cycles
- A 1.4-mile-deep pilot hole drilled this summer is already providing earthquake data; Congressional approval is pending for the deeper SAFOD hole
- Data from these drill holes are providing a third dimension to the ongoing Parkfield Earthquake Experiment (see http://quake.usgs.gov/research/parkfield)
- Learning what really happens in the fault zone before, during, and after earthquakes will help scientists better predict the timing and severity of future quakes



Thursday, Oct 24, 2002, 7:00 pm

Conference Room A Bldg 3, USGS, Menlo Park, CA

The Earth Science Information Center (Map and Publication Sales) in Building Three will remain open until 7:00 p.m. on the evening of the lecture. Map for lecture site on reverse.

For information on USGS public events, call (650) 329-5000 or visit our website at http://online.wr.usgs.gov/calendar/