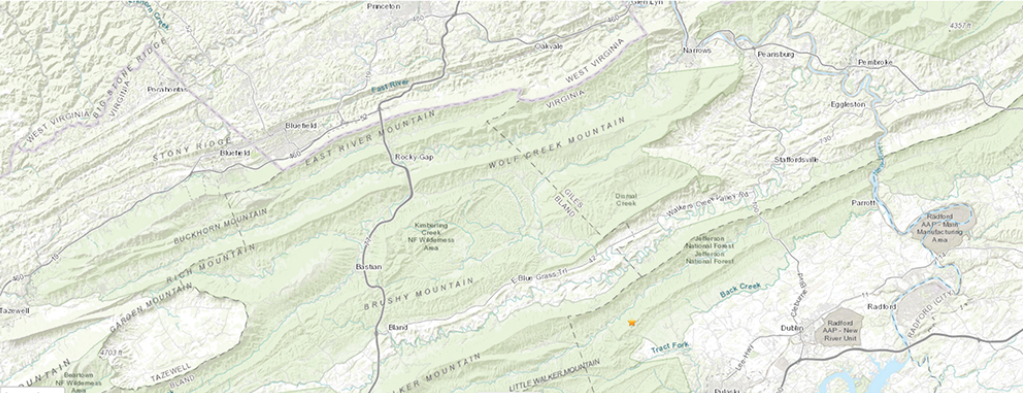


# 2.3 Mag. Quake, Pulaski, Virginia - 1/20/2020

## M 2.3 – 10km NW of Pulaski, Virginia

2020-01-20 23:02:53 (UTC) | 37.110°N 80.865°W | 8.1 km depth



USA  
Region  
Virginia  
Country  
United States

### Nearby Places

Pulaski, Virginia, United States	Population: 8890
10.2 km (6.4 mi) SE	
Radford, Virginia, United States	Population: 17403
25.7 km (16 mi) E	
Bluefield, West Virginia, United States	Population: 10323
36.3 km (22.6 mi) WNW	
Christiansburg, Virginia, United States	Population: 21943
40.5 km (25.2 mi) E	
Charleston, West Virginia, United States	Population: 49736
153.5 km (95.4 mi) NNW	

Distance and direction from epicenter to nearby place.

### Tectonic Summary

#### Earthquakes in the Giles County Seismic Zone

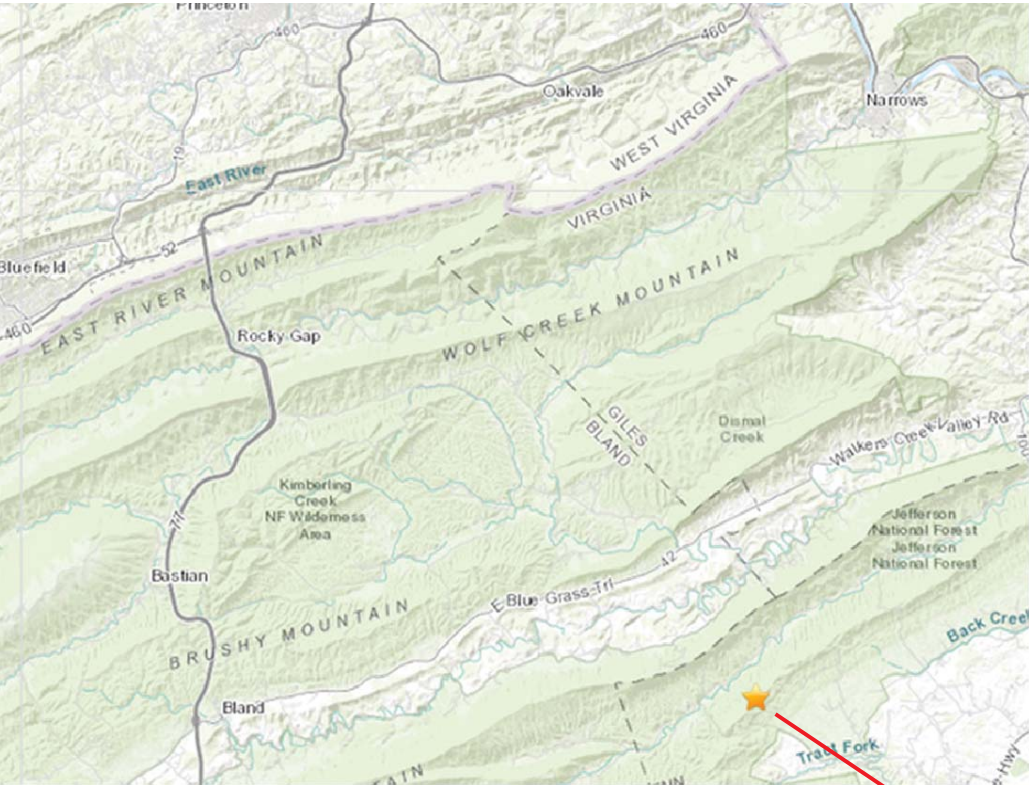
Since at least 1828, people in the Giles County seismic zone of southwestern Virginia and adjacent West Virginia have felt small earthquakes and suffered damage from infrequent larger ones. The [largest damaging earthquake](#) (magnitude 5.9) in the seismic zone occurred in 1897. Smaller, slightly damaging earthquakes occur at variable intervals, but in the zone they tend to occur a few decades apart. Still smaller earthquakes that cause no damage are felt once or twice a decade in the seismic zone.

Earthquakes in the central and eastern U.S., although less frequent than in the western U.S., are typically felt over a much broader region. East of the Rockies, an earthquake can be felt over an area as much as ten times larger than a similar magnitude earthquake on the west coast. A magnitude 4.0 eastern U.S. earthquake typically can be felt at many places as far as 100 km (60 mi) from where it occurred, and it infrequently causes damage near its source. A magnitude 5.5 eastern U.S. earthquake usually can be felt as far as 500 km (300 mi) from where it occurred, and sometimes causes damage as far away as 40 km (25 mi).

#### Faults

Earthquakes everywhere occur on faults within bedrock, usually miles deep. Most bedrock beneath southwestern Virginia and adjacent West Virginia was assembled as continents collided to form a supercontinent about 500-300 million years ago, raising the Appalachian Mountains.

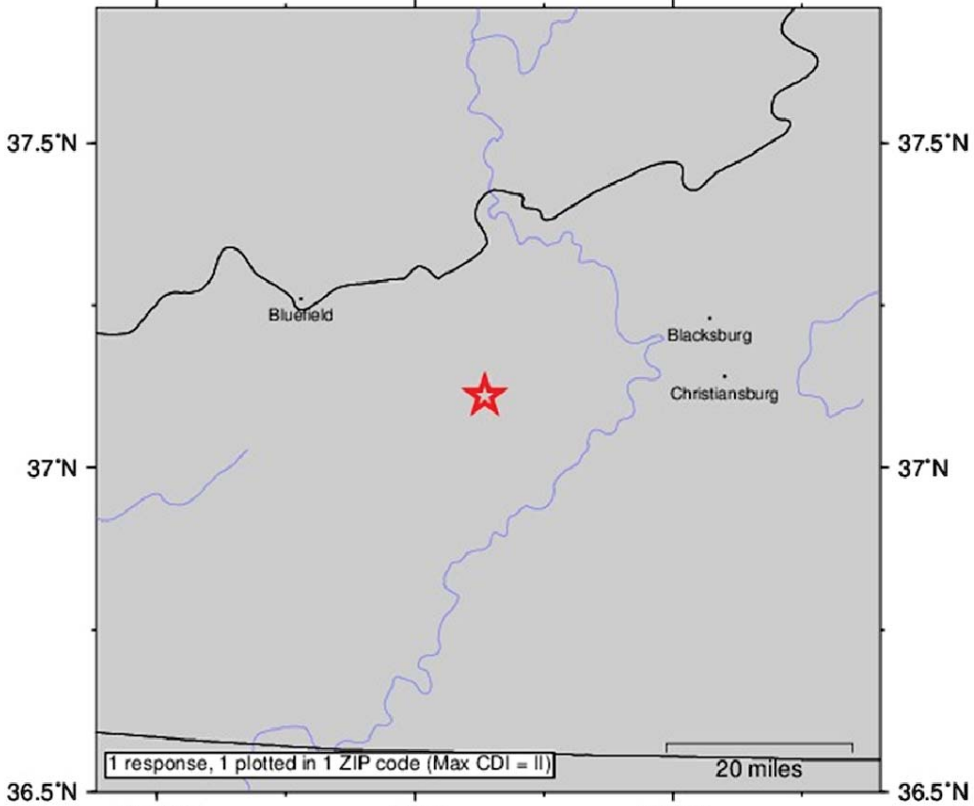
At well-studied plate boundaries like the San Andreas fault system in California, often scientists can determine the name of the specific fault that is responsible for an earthquake. In contrast, east of the Rocky Mountains this is rarely the case. The Giles County seismic zone is far from the nearest plate boundaries, which are in the center of the Atlantic Ocean and in the Caribbean Sea. The seismic zone is laced with known faults but numerous smaller or deeply buried faults remain undetected. Even the known faults are poorly located at earthquake depths. Accordingly, few, if any, earthquakes in the seismic zone can be linked to named faults. It is difficult to determine if a known fault is still active and could slip and cause an earthquake. As in most other areas east of the Rockies, the best guide to earthquake hazards in the seismic zone is the earthquakes themselves.



### USGS Community Internet Intensity Map

#### VIRGINIA

2020-01-20 23:02:53 UTC 37.1102N 80.8648W M2.3 Depth: 8 km ID:se60098828



SHAKING	Not felt	Weak	Light	Moderate	Strong	Very strong	Severe	Violent	Extreme
DAMAGE	none	none	none	Very light	Light	Moderate	Moderate/Heavy	Heavy	Very Heavy
INTENSITY	I	II-III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X+

Processed: Tue Jan 21 17:51:42 2020 vmdy#11

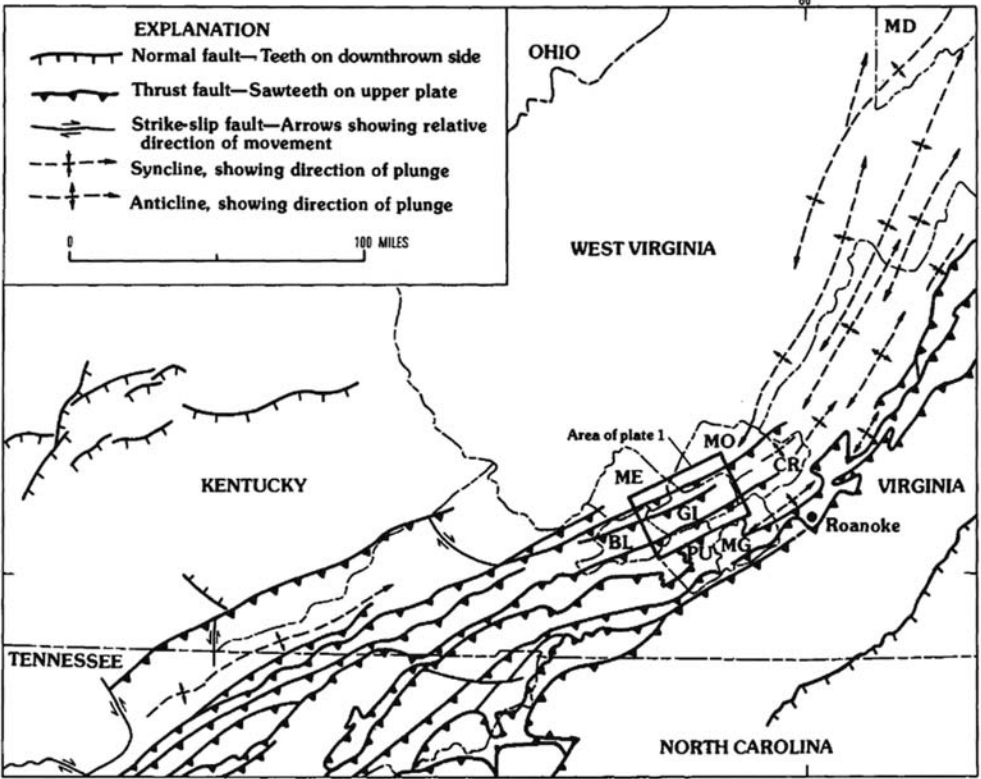


Figure 2. Regional structural setting of the Giles County area of Virginia and West Virginia. Counties, West Virginia: ME, Mercer; MO, Monroe. Counties, Virginia: BL, Bland; CR, Craig; GI, Giles; MG, Montgomery; PU, Pulaski. Location of area of plate 1 is also shown.

Small (2.3 Mag.), shallow (8 Km) quake. Reported by 1 person; not felt in West Virginia.