



THOUSANDS FEARED DEAD IN HAITI QUAKE; LOOTING REPORTED

'Worse than a war zone'

U.S. sending ships, supplies, Marines

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Dazed survivors wandered past dead bodies in rubble-strewn streets Wednesday, crying for loved ones, and rescuers desperately searched collapsed buildings as fear rose that the death toll from Haiti's devastating earthquake could reach into the tens of thousands.

The first cargo planes with food, water, medical supplies, shelter and sniffer dogs headed to the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation a day after the magnitude-7 quake flattened much of the capital of 2 million people.

Tuesday's earthquake brought down buildings great and small — from shacks in shantytowns to President Rene Preval's gleaming white National Palace, where a dome tilted ominously above the manicured grounds.

Hospitals, schools and the main prison collapsed. The capital's Roman Catholic archbishop was killed when his office and the main cathedral fell. The head of the U.N. peacekeeping mission was missing in the ruins of the organization's multistory headquarters.

Police officers turned their pickup trucks into ambulances to carry the injured. Wisnel Occilus, a 24-year-old student, was wedged between two other survivors in a truck bed headed to a police station. He was in an English class when the earth shook at 4:53 p.m. and the building collapsed.

"The professor is dead. Some of the students are dead, too," said Occilus, who suspected he had several broken bones. "Everything hurts."

Other survivors carried injured to hospitals in wheelbarrows and on stretchers fashioned from doors.

Speaking from Port-au-Prince, Frank Thorp told NBC's "Today" show he dug through the rubble of a missionary building to rescue his trapped wife. He described conditions in Port-au-Prince as

HOW TO HELP

Financial donations are desperately needed for relief after the massive earthquake in Haiti. These agencies are among many that are sending aid and volunteers to the country. For links to their Web sites, go to www.newhavenregister.com.

AMERICAN JEWISH WORLD SERVICE: 45 W. 36th St., New York, N.Y. 10018; 212-792-2900

AMERICAN RED CROSS: 2025 E St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006; 800-733-2767. Text "HAITI" to "90999" to make a \$10 donation.

AMERICARES: 88 Hamilton Ave., Stamford 06902; 800-486-4357

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES: P.O. Box 17090, Baltimore, Md. 21203-7090; 800-736-3467

EPISCOPAL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT: P.O. Box 7058 Merrifield, Va. 22116-7058; 800-334-7626, ext. 5129

HAITIAN MINISTRIES FOR THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH: 95 Norwich-New London Turnpike, Uncasville 06382; 860-638-1018

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF: P.O. Box 17061, Baltimore, Md. 21298-9832; 800-597-5972

OXFAM AMERICA: 226 Causeway St., 5th Floor, Boston, Mass. 02114-2206; 800-776-9326

THE SALVATION ARMY: 615 Slaters Lane, P.O. Box 269, Alexandria, Va. 22313

SAVE THE CHILDREN: Haiti Earthquake Children in Emergency Fund, 54 Wilton Road, Westport 06880; 800-728-3843

U.S. FUND FOR UNICEF: 125 Maiden Lane, New York, N.Y. 10038; 800-367-5437

WORLD VISION: Haiti Earthquake Relief, P.O. Box 9716, Federal Way, Wash. 98063-9716; 888-511-6548



ABOVE: Debris covers the street Wednesday after an earthquake along the Delmas road in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. A 7.0-magnitude earthquake, the largest ever recorded in the area, rocked Haiti on Tuesday. **BELOW:** This two photo combination shows the National Palace in Port-au-Prince in 2004 at left. At right is the National Palace as it looked Wednesday.



"worse than a war zone." In Petionville, next to the capital, people used sledgehammers and their bare hands to dig through a collapsed shopping center, tossing aside mattresses and office supplies. More than a dozen cars were entombed, including a U.N. truck. Nearby, about 200 survivors, including many children, huddled in a theater parking lot using sheets to rig makeshift tents and shield themselves from the sun in 90-degree heat.

At a triage center improvised in a hotel parking lot, people with cuts, broken bones and crushed ribs moaned under tent-like covers fashioned from bloody sheets.

"I can't take it anymore. My back hurts too much," said Alex Georges, 28, who was still waiting for treatment a day after his school collapsed and killed 11 classmates. A body lay a few feet away.

"This is much worse than a hurricane," said doctors' assis-

tant Jimitre Coquillon. "There's no water. There's nothing. Thirsty people are going to die." If there were any organized efforts to distribute food or water, they were not visible.

The aid group Doctors Without Borders treated wounded at two hospitals that withstood the quake and set up tent clinics elsewhere to replace its damaged facilities. Cuba, which already had hundreds of doctors

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Groups around state organize relief efforts

By Abbe Smith
Register Staff

A day after a catastrophic earthquake flattened Haiti's capital city of Port-au-Prince, local and national relief organizations were mounting efforts to deliver food, medicine and supplies to the poverty-stricken country.

The organized response to Tuesday's 7.0-magnitude quake was immediate, with large organizations like the American Red Cross and AmeriCares pledging millions of dollars in aid and smaller relief groups chipping in with grass-roots fundraisers.

The massive effort is getting plenty of help from smaller organizations and church groups pitching in whatever way they can. For many, the first step is assessing the damage and trying to make contact with friends and colleagues in Haiti.

Ray Sterman, chairman of the North Branford-based Hunger Relief and Development, said he received terrible news Wednesday from the Salesian Missions in Haiti, which his

SOUND OFF
What, if anything, will you do to aid earthquake victims in Haiti?
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organization helps with aid. "We've already lost 200 children in the Salesian missions we support in Sun City (Cite Soleil) and Port-au-Prince. We've already lost some priests. This is just the beginning of trying to figure out where we are," he said. "We are devastated." Sterman is meeting today with the organization's board to decide how much aid to send to Haiti. Hunger Relief and Development was founded by former state Rep. Vito Mazza of West Haven in 1980 and has been assisting Haiti for two decades. Schools and churches in the area are looking for ways to pitch in as well.

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Saybrook native trapped under rubble rescued

By Susan Misur
Register Staff

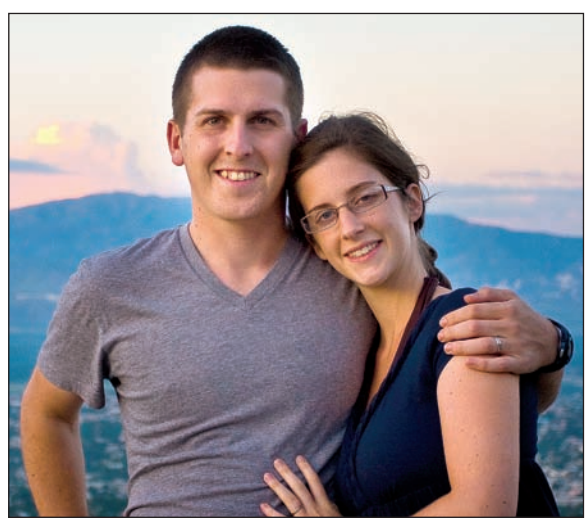
OLD SAYBROOK — As survivors in Haiti began surveying the devastation caused by Tuesday's earthquake and braved continuing aftershocks, missionary and Old Saybrook native Jillian Thorp found herself trapped under piles of concrete and metal.

She managed to use her cell phone to call husband Frank Thorp, who was working about eight hours from the crumbled mission house that had buried his wife.

But the call was lost, so Frank Thorp jumped in his car, and later saved his wife from the rubble that covered her for 10 hours.

"Frank drove all night long to get to her," Clay Cook, Jillian Thorp's father, said Wednesday as he told the emotional story of his daughter's dramatic rescue. "They could see a

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Contributed photo

Frank and Jillian Thorp at the Hotel Montana in Port-au-Prince in September 2009. Frank rescued Jillian from the rubble of a mission after Tuesday's earthquake.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SURVIVORS

The State Department has set up a hot line for those seeking information about family members in Haiti. Call 888-407-4747.

FOR CONTINUOUS COVERAGE ON HAITI VISIT NEWHAVENREGISTER.COM

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