

ENGINEERING ASPECTS OF BADGAM EARTHQUAKE, 2 SEPTEMBER, 1963

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ABSTRACT

The paper gives a brief description of the damage that occurred during the Badgam Earthquake and suggests precautions that may be adopted in future for areas like the Kashmir Valley.

The shock had a magnitude of 5.5, a focal depth of 44 km and was felt all over Kashmir Valley in intensity up to MM VIII. About 65 people were killed and many houses of brick or mud construction collapsed completely. The old style of house construction wherein timber was used to frame and brace walls of compacted earth or brick have survived the earthquake. Timber has become expensive and mud or brick houses built without such reinforcement have suffered greater damage. Recommendations are given for inexpensive improvements to local types of construction.

The paper includes an isoseismal map and photographs of houses.

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