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Tsunami Alert Lifted After Sumatra Quake

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JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — A strong earthquake hit the western coast of Indonesia's Sumatra island Tuesday, prompting authorities to temporarily issue a tsunami alert.

The quake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.4 struck nearly 100 miles off the coast of the town of Bengkulu, the Meteorological and Geophysics Agency said.

There was no sign of large waves reaching the coast and authorities lifted the tsunami alert after one hour.

The U.S. Geological Survey put the strength at a weaker 6.2 magnitude.

A series of powerful earthquakes in the same region last month killed 23 people and damaged or destroyed thousands of buildings.

There were no immediate reports of deaths, injuries or damage from Tuesday's trembler.

Indonesia, the world's largest archipelago, is prone to seismic upheaval due to its location on the so-called Pacific "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanos and fault lines encircling the Pacific Basin.

A massive earthquake and subsequent tsunami on Dec. 26, 2004, killed more than 131,000 people in Indonesia's Aceh province and left a half-million homeless.