Vanuatu - January 2, 2002

On January 2, 2002 (3 January local date), a powerful earthquake with a magnitude 6.3mb (7.5Ms) approximately 45 km West of Port Vila, caused extensive damage to this seaside capital on Vanuatu's main island of Efate and in the surrounding areas. The quake generated a local tsunami. Although the tsunami only registered a crest to trough amplitude of 0.8 m on the tide gauge, eyewitness accounts in different parts of the Port Vila harbour put the maximum tsunami runup at about 3.0 m which was large enough to cause significant damage. However most of the damage was due to earthquake effects. A major subsequent aftershock also generated a much smaller tsunami which was recorded by the harbor tide gauge. See Tsunami Newsletter and Post-Tsunami Survey links.