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7.4-Magnitude Earthquake Jolts Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula, Tsunami Alert Lifted

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A powerful 7.4-magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula on Sunday morning, triggering an initial tsunami warning that was later lifted after no major waves were observed.

The quake occurred at approximately 8:49 a.m. local time and was centered about 144 kilometers east of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, a city home to nearly 180,000 people. The

tremor, which originated at a depth of 10 kilometers, was followed by a series of strong aftershocks, including two measuring 6.7 and 5.0 on the Richter scale.

In response to the seismic activity, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center and Russian emergency authorities issued tsunami alerts for several coastal areas. Residents were advised to stay alert and move to higher ground. However, the alerts were rescinded within hours after wave activity remained minor, with the highest reported wave at approximately 60 centimeters near the Aleutian Islands.

“While the earthquake was significant, the absence of a destructive tsunami is a relief,” said a spokesperson from Russia’s Ministry of Emergency Situations. “Monitoring will continue as aftershocks are likely.”

The Kamchatka Peninsula lies within the Pacific “Ring of Fire,” a zone of high seismic and volcanic activity due to tectonic plate movements. The region is no stranger to strong earthquakes, with the 1952 Kamchatka quake, measuring 9.0, remaining one of the most powerful in recorded history.

According to early reports, there have been no casualties or significant structural damage. Authorities have deployed teams to assess infrastructure and ensure public safety in affected areas.

The quake was also registered by international seismic monitoring agencies, including the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and Germany’s GFZ Research Center for Geosciences. The tremors were felt across nearby parts of eastern Russia, but no emergency evacuations were deemed necessary.

Officials have urged residents to remain vigilant, as aftershocks may continue over the coming days.