

CRISIS INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

Earthquake flash update #1

Produced end-to-end by the Argus seismic chain — no human intervention

29 Aug 2026 · EN · ARGUS

Issue time 24 Jun 2026 22:35Z · Event time 24 Jun 2026 22:05Z · Reporting period 24 Jun 2026 22:05Z to 24 Jun 2026 22:35Z (+30 min after the event) · Version Model-based

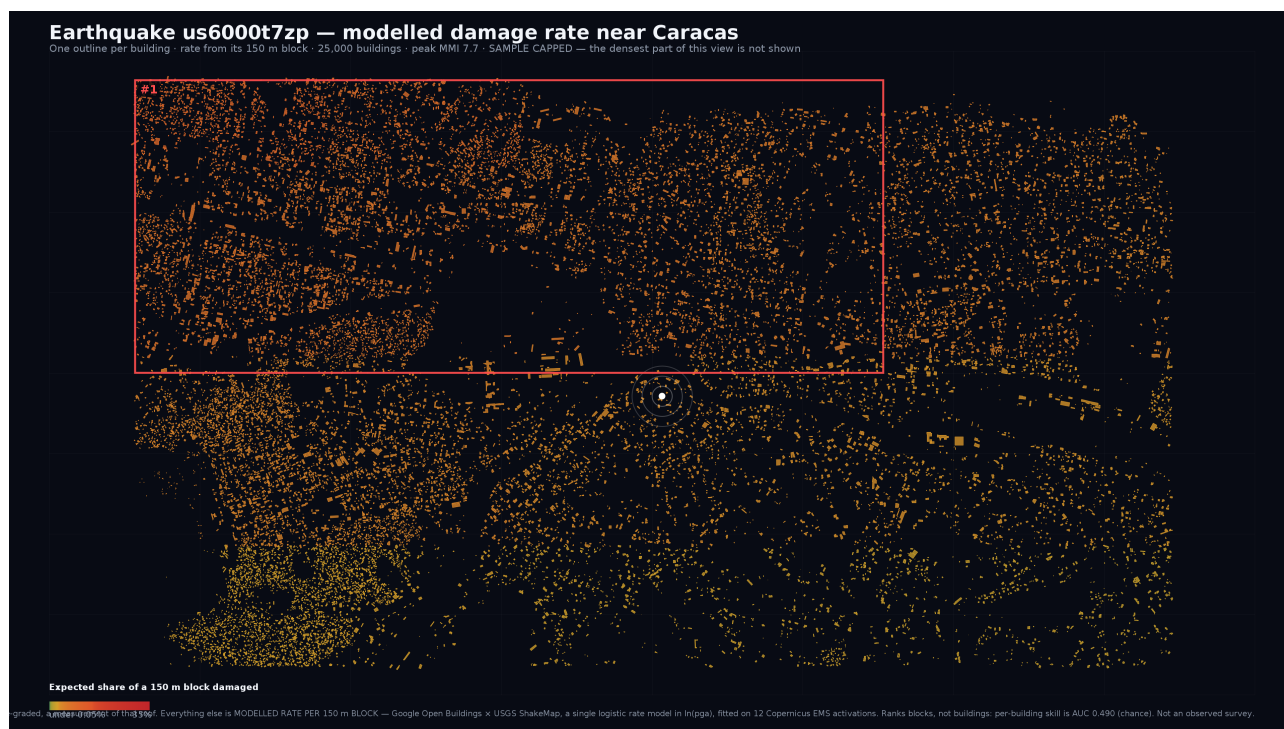
Executive summary

A magnitude 7.5 earthquake struck 20 km W of Catia La Mar, Venezuela at 24 Jun 2026 22:05Z, at a depth of 10 km — shallow, which concentrates shaking at the surface. The model's alert level is red.

About 9.4M people are modelled inside strong shaking — intensity MMI 6 or greater, the level at which buildings begin to suffer; about 1.5M of them are inside MMI 8 or greater, where heavy damage becomes widespread. These are modelled residents under the shaking footprint, not casualties.

This is the first flash update: everything below is MODELLED, roughly 30 minutes after the event, before any field or partner reporting exists.

Cartography



Event overview

Magnitude: M7.5

Origin time: 24 Jun 2026 22:05Z

Epicentre: 20 km W of Catia La Mar, Venezuela

Depth: 10 km

Country: Venezuela

Earthquake type: Shallow crustal strike-slip earthquake

Tsunami risk: No

Aftershocks: 2 located so far, largest M4.4

Aftershock risk: USGS operational forecast, $P(M \geq 5)$: 0.4% in 24 h · 2.4% in 1 week · 8.6% in 1 month [USGS, not computed by this system]

Tectonic setting: Shallow, within the upper crust. No plate-boundary name is given: this system holds fault traces, not a plate model, and the mechanism itself is on the Earthquake type line above

Areas of concern

Catia La Mar: 21 km (~107k)

Maiquetía: 29 km (~53k)

Los Teques: 34 km (~252k)

San Antonio de Los Altos: 37 km (~64k)

Caracas: 39 km (~3.0M)

Chacao: 42 km (~65k)

Baruta: 42 km (~244k)

La Victoria: 43 km (~127k)

Los Dos Caminos: 44 km (~58k)

El Cafetal: 45 km (~80k)

Population centres of 50,000 or more, by distance. Smaller settlements closer to the epicentre exist and are not listed here.

ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS — By modelled peak shaking (MMI), highest first: Carrizal (MMI 8.0) · Guaicaipuro (MMI 8.0) · José Félix Ribas (MMI 8.0) · José Rafael Revenga (MMI 8.0) · Santiago Mariño (MMI 8.0) · Santos Michelena (MMI 8.0). 197 further districts are inside the footprint at lower intensity and are not listed.

△ The district ranking above is by SHAKING, which is not the same as by NEED: a strongly shaken district with sound construction can need less than a weakly shaken one without it. No needs assessment has reached this document.

Exposure overview

Districts shaken: 203

Peak intensity: MMI 8.0

People in MMI 6+: ~9.4M

People in MMI 7+: ~5.9M

People in MMI 8+: ~1.5M

Fatalities (MODELLED): 10,000+

△ Critical facilities (hospitals, schools, care homes) are NOT in this system's data. Their status has to be sought elsewhere.

Potential building damage

Buildings in MMI 6+: ~2.7M

Damaged (modelled): ~166k to ~1.1M

Likely damage concentration: the 203 districts inside the modelled footprint, peaking at MMI 8.0. Damage rate rises steeply above MMI 7, so the highest-shaking districts carry most of the expected collapses.

By modelled peak shaking (MMI), highest first: Carrizal (MMI 8.0) · Guaicaipuro (MMI 8.0) · José Félix Ribas (MMI 8.0) · José Rafael Revenga (MMI 8.0) · Santiago Mariño (MMI 8.0). 198 further districts are inside the footprint at lower intensity and are not listed.

△ AREA yes, ADDRESS no. These are expected RATES over an area, not a verdict on any single building: per-building discrimination measures AUC 0.490, which is chance. A named building-level hotspot from this model would send a team to an address chosen at random.

Accessibility considerations

HAZARD TO ACCESS — Landslide alert RED, ~13000 people exposed. Liquefaction alert RED, ~190k people exposed. Source: USGS ground-failure product, not modelled here. Co-seismic landslides are the main reason a road on the map is not a road on the ground.

ROUTE STATUS NOT AVAILABLE. Road, bridge, airport, port AND LOGISTICS-CHAIN status are not in this system's data, and nothing here should be read as an accessibility assessment.

This section stays in the document on purpose: a section that disappears in silence makes a reader believe there was nothing to say.

Humanitarian considerations

MMI 8+ exposure implies structural collapse in vulnerable construction, search-and-rescue need, and displacement from unsafe buildings.

MMI 6+ exposure implies non-structural damage, power and water interruption, and people spending nights outdoors.

SHELTER — implied: ~1.5M people are inside the MMI 8+ band, where masonry damage is the expected mode. How many need shelter depends on building type and on how many sleep outside from fear, neither of which is held.

WASH — NOT ASSESSED. Water-system damage does not scale with shaking in any way this system models: it depends on network age, material and where the pipes run. It needs utility or partner reporting.

HEALTH — implied: injuries scale with MMI 7+ exposure (~5.9M people); facility status is NOT held by this system and has to be sought elsewhere.

FOOD SECURITY — not assessable from shaking alone. The pre-event baseline, where an official IPC analysis exists, is carried by the Humanitarian Snapshot; this document does not estimate post-event food security.

DISPLACEMENT — implied by MMI 7+ exposure and by damaged housing; the number of people actually displaced requires registration and is not held.

These are IMPLICATIONS of the modelled shaking bands, not observations. Nobody has reported from the ground into this document.

Information gaps

Field and partner reporting: none in this document.

Accessibility and critical-facility status: not held by this system.

USGS PAGER: RED, peak MMI 9 — published, and it supersedes the modelled level above.

Priority actions

Activate search-and-rescue coordination for the districts inside MMI 7+.

Seek national civil-protection and local-language reporting: at this hour it is ahead of every global feed.

Request or await USGS PAGER and ShakeMap, which supersede this model.

Treat every number above as modelled until field reporting exists.

Key maps

Shake-intensity map — produced and attached to the alert email for this event

Exposure and damage-rate map — produced where the epicentre is on mapped land

Critical-infrastructure map — not produced: the underlying data is not held

Next product

Flash update #2 — 24 Jun 2026 23:05Z (+1 h after the event)

Search & rescue intelligence bulletin #1 — 24 Jun 2026 23:05Z (+1 h after the event)

Operational intelligence brief #1 — 25 Jun 2026 04:05Z (+6 h after the event)

Search & rescue intelligence bulletin #2 — 25 Jun 2026 05:05Z (+7 h after the event)

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