

On December 22, 1972, a series of five earthquakes hit the City of Managua, Nicaragua. There were two light shocks after 2200. The biggest shock came 0030 (6.25 on the Richter scale) and was followed with two more shocks (5+ on the Richter scale) within a two hour period.

The major portion of the city was totally destroyed. Major damage extended as far as eight miles outside of the general city limits. Major fires in central parts of the city.

About 20 percent of Managua was estimated to be total destroyed. Between four and six thousand people died, twenty thousand were injured and two hundred and fifty thousand were left homeless.

Countries from around the world responded with all types and degrees of aid and assistance.

It is submitted the attached Fire and Rescue Summary in hopes that the experience and knowledge gained from the onscene survey of the Managua disaster will be of interest and benefit to the emergency services and ultimately, the citizens of other states.

It should be noted that the Fire and Rescue Summary is a preliminary report and that a master, detailed report covering the entire disaster situation in Managua will be prepared by the Office of Emergency Services, based upon input from all members of the survey team. Therefore, certain information in this summary will be subject to minor modification when printed in the master report.