

Bureau of Mines detects nuke

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Nearly half a world away, Montana was made aware of North Korea's nuclear testing with the help of sensitive equipment at the state Bureau of Mines and Geology.

"It could be easily overlooked, unless you knew where to look," said Mike Stickney, a seismologist with the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology who heads up the Earthquake Studies Office .

A handful of the Bureau's western monitoring stations registered a faint record of the nuclear testing Sunday evening, Stickney said. Typically, equipment at the bureau picks up seismic events that register a Richter scale reading of 5.5 on a global stage, but some did pick up the testing which is about a 4.2.

"That's not very large — seismologically speaking," he said.