

Santorini Shaking: State of Emergency In Effect

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Key Points

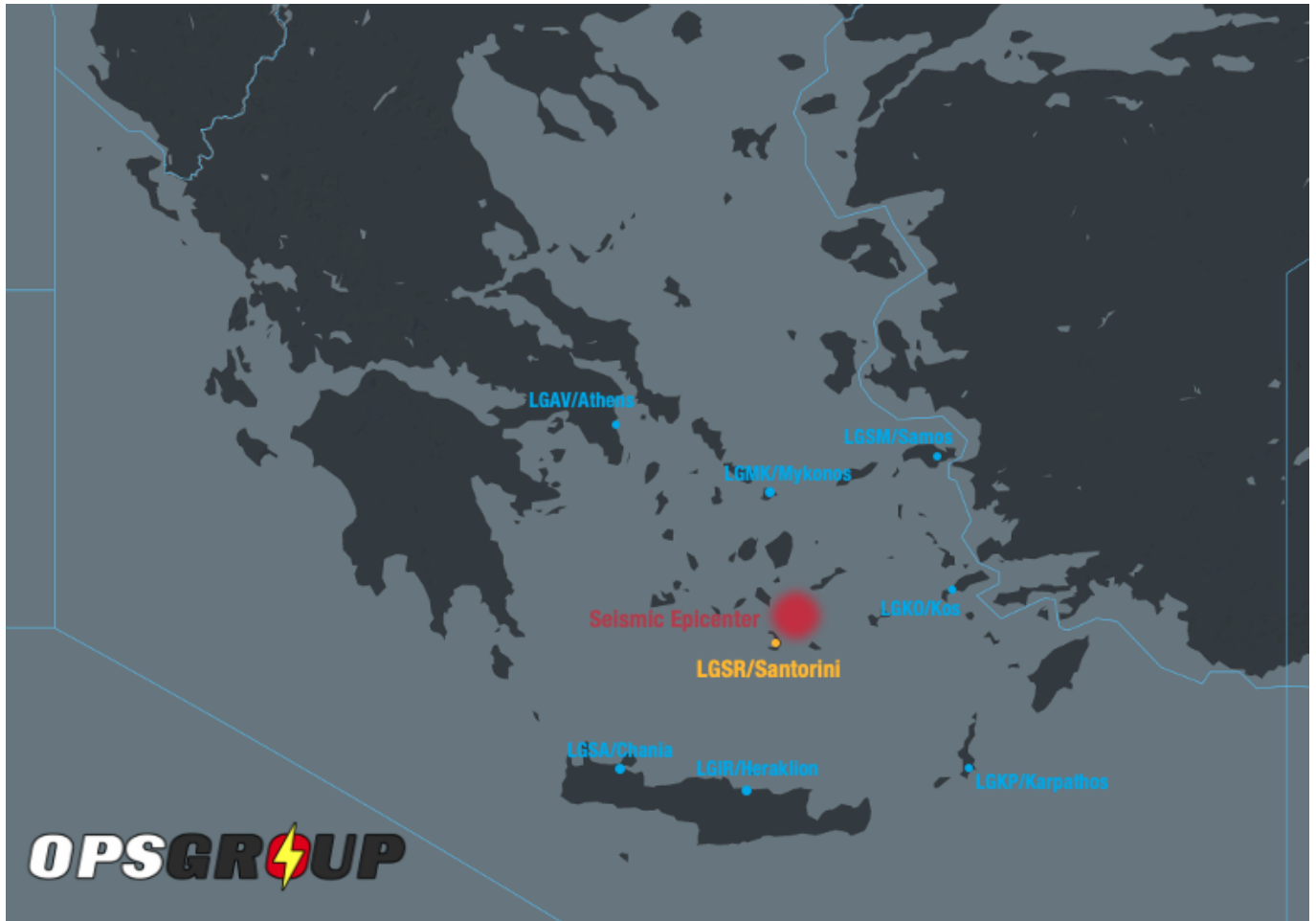
- Santorini and neighboring islands are currently experiencing what is described as a 'seismic swarm' of earthquakes.
- Nearly thirteen thousand have been recorded in the past twelve days.
- A state of emergency has been in effect since the largest tremor of 5.1 struck the island on Feb 6. Large numbers of people have evacuated.
- Experts suggest this may be a precursor a larger event, including a possible volcanic eruption.
- The US Embassy has issued a new warning advising extreme caution before travelling there.
- At time of writing, local agents report no damage to the airport.

An Active Earthquake Zone

Greece is one of the most **seismically active** regions of Europe.

It occupies part of something known as the 'Hellenic Subduction Zone.' Not dissimilar to the Pacific's notorious 'Ring of Fire,' here shifting tectonic plates create numerous weaknesses in the earth's crust.

The source of the current trouble is found near Anydros – just 16nm northeast of **Santorini**. The earthquakes began on Jan 31 and have progressively worsened which may be cause for concern.



The largest yet occurred on Feb 6 and was felt as far away as Athens, Crete and Türkiye.

State of Emergency

Following the events of Feb 6, a state of emergency was declared and will remain in effect until at least March 3. This includes an instruction to **immediately evacuate coastal areas** in the event of stronger earthquakes due to a tsunami risk.



A state of emergency is in effect until at least March 3.

On Feb 7 the US Embassy issued a new warning for Santorini and the surrounding islands. They advise **extreme caution** if travelling there.

Airports

The seismic events are occurring in a relatively constrained area of the Aegean Sea between Santorini itself, and the island of Amorgos.

As such, **LGSR/Santorini** is the primary airport to be impacted. At time of writing, several local agents have advised the airport is open and operating normally.

However, the situation is inherently unpredictable. If a larger quake occurs, a **sudden closure of the airport is possible**.

This may be preventative due to the evacuation of staff (including ATC), or more severe in the case of damaged infrastructure including instrument approach equipment, movement areas and the runway itself.



At time of writing, LGSR/Santorini is open and not reporting damage.

For inbound aircraft a solid contingency plan right now would be to carry **healthy alternates** such as LGMK/Mykonos, LGIR/Heraklion, LGSA/Chania or even LGAV/Athens.

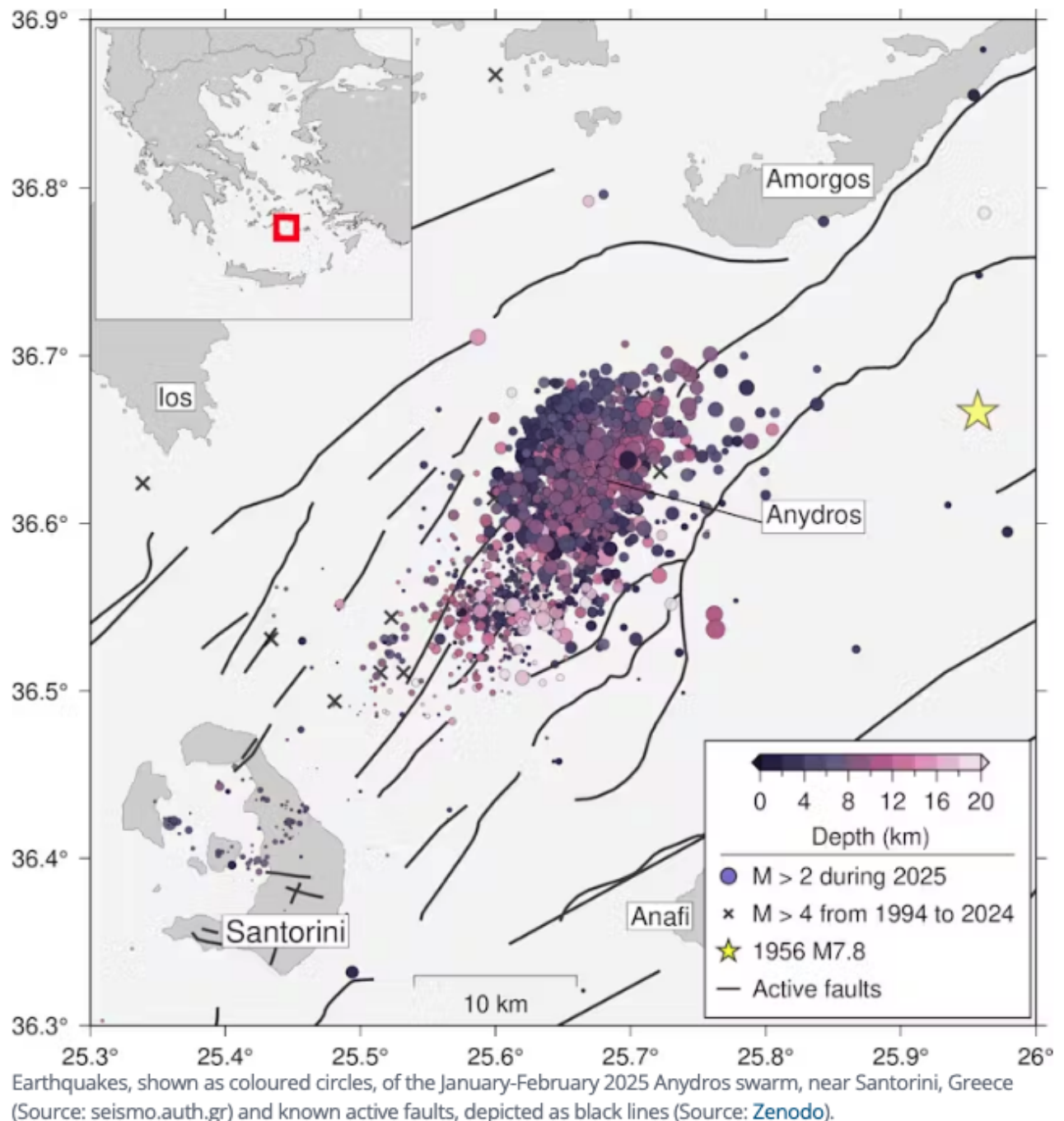
If you must go to Santorini, we recommend stop and goes only to **minimize time on the ground**.

Should the airport close, damage assessments can take hours or days to complete. Any aircraft on the ground may be stuck there for an extended period of time. Crew recovery options may also be limited during rescue efforts.

What will happen next?

Experts are undecided. A typical seismic pattern usually consists of larger earthquakes (mainshocks) followed by smaller ones (aftershocks).

The pattern in Santorini is different. Some seismic events don't consist of one single major event. Instead, a region can experience a wave of smaller quakes over a period of weeks or months. This phenomenon is known as 'swarms.'



Santorini may be experiencing a different kind of seismic event called a 'swarm.'

On the other hand, other scientists believe recent events may be a precursor to something larger – the figure being widely thrown around is a 'six', defined on the Richter Scale as a strong quake with potential to damage well-built structures with strong to violent shaking near the epicenter.

We will continue to monitor the situation in Santorini and report any changes to aircraft operations as they become apparent.

Major Earthquake in Turkey

OPSGROUP Team

11 February, 2025



A major earthquake has disrupted operations at several airports in Turkey. Here is the current situation (Feb 9).

Magnitude 7.8 earthquake

The main earthquake registered at **3:17am on February 6**, with the epicentre approximately 20nm west-northwest of Gaziantep. Tremors were felt through parts of Syria and Lebanon.

Several large aftershocks have been felt, with aftershocks expected to continue through February 6.

Turkish airport closures

This website was shared with us and provides a **good resource for the current status of airports** and which are receiving flights providing **relief aid**.

Severe damage has been reported in Gaziantep, and **all civilian flights to LTAJ/Gaziantep** are currently suspended as the airport is being used as the primary airport for relief flights.

LTAF/Adana Reports suggest Adana airport closed initially but is not open for relief aid flights. It is not clear whether it is available for passenger flights. The airport always requires a **PPR due parking capacity** so confirm with an agent prior to heading there.

LTDA/Hatay airport, in the most southerly region, bordering Syria to the west is closed indefinitely due to severe damage to the runway.

LTCN/Kahramanmaraş airport north of Gaziantep is also reportedly closed to civilian traffic.

LTCS/Sanlıurfa airport has also been closed to civilian flights while being used as a relief airport.

Reports suggest **some airspace in Southwestern Turkey may be impacted** due to power outages. Flightradar shows aircraft operating on the main airways.

The southwest region bordering Syria is considered a high risk area due to the conflict with Syria and is generally avoided due to the risk of military traffic, USA, and the proximity to airstrikes.

For further information on the airspace risk, see Safeairspace.net