

Faults of the Bohemian Massif

This page reviews some main features of the most important faults in the Bohemian Massif and its close neighbourhood. It uses a structured database of active faults and related observations as edited by Petr Špaček, Petra Štěpančíková and Ivan Prachař and occasionally updated based on new contributions. Emphasis is given to those faults which were demonstrably active in Cenozoic and which are assumed to potentially slip during the following thousands of years.

Active faults can relax the crustal stress by a sudden slip, generating earthquakes which may cause damage at fragile building structures. In the Czech Republic strong earthquakes happen rarely but it is assumed from what we observe in geologically similar parts of the world that they may happen indeed - once after a very long time of quiescence. Learning about whether and where such earthquakes occurred in geological history, how often and how strong they were - these are the main reasons we study faults and related geological features in detail. The information learned is then used together with the known earthquakes of the last centuries for better quantitative assessment of seismic hazard.

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Diendorf-Boskovice fault

Haná fault zone

Železné hory fault

Mariánské lázně fault

Hluboká fault

Sudetic marginal fault

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