

Is There a Seismologist in the House?



Did you feel that? The C-wing was shaking thanks to Mr. Fogle's 8th grade technology class. They were testing towers to see if they could withstand an earthquake.

Mr. Fogle sets the scene:

Every year fires burn acres of land. The park rangers sit in towers to be able to survey an area for miles around the tower. These towers need to withstand an earthquake.

The students paired up to create a tower they hoped would pass the test. Using only balsa wood, hot glue, and cardboard, the

teams designed and constructed their earthquake proof tower. The tower had to stand 24 inches tall and support a two-inch piece of metal at the top representing the weight of the people in the tower.

One by one, the teams lined up to put their tower on the earthquake simulator putting their engineering skills to the test. Some towers lasted longer than others. As Thomas Edison would say, "I have not failed. I have just found 10,000 ways that won't work."

Thanks Mr. Fogle and the technology students for sharing this interesting class with all of us. It reminds us all, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again."

