A state of emergency was declared in New Zealand's second-largest city of Christchurch after a 7.1 magnitude earthquake hit 19 miles west of the city early Saturday morning local time.

Buildings, houses and infrastructure were seriously damaged after the quake rocked the city Numerous aftershocks ranging between magnitude 4 and 5.5 continue to shake the region The earthquake, initially thought to be magnitude 7.4 but since downgraded to 7.1,

