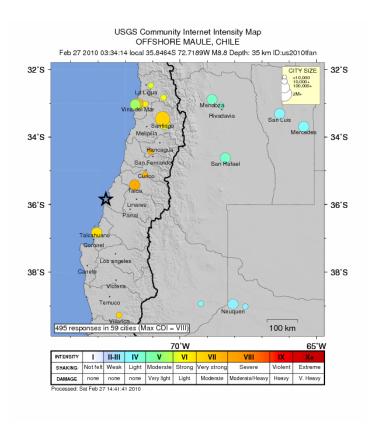


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Emergency Operations Center Situation Report #1 Chile Earthquake

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- A major earthquake (8.8 in the Richter scale) was recorded at 3:34 a.m. Chilean time off the coast of Maule (approx. 100 km from the city of Concepción).
 Although Concepción is the most affected city, the earthquake was felt with great intensity in other areas, including the capital of Santiago, which reports damage and loss of electric power in some areas.
- There have been numerous aftershocks up to a magnitude of 6.9, with at least 25 reaching a magnitude 5.0 or higher.
- Preliminary reports indicate that there are at least 150 deaths, of which 80% are from the southern regions of the country. However; because of the large area affected it is expected that this number will rise.



- Damage to physical infrastructure,
 bridges and main roads was reported. Schools will be closed until March 8.
- President Michelle Bachelet declared a state of emergency in the regions of Valparaiso, Santiago, O'higgins, Maule, Bio Bio and La Araucania.
- Numerous homes collapsed in cities such as Talca, Curicó, and Temuco in the south, and the old area of Santiago and Valparaiso.
- President Bachelet convened an emergency committee.
- Communications with Chile are being slowly reestablished.
- The Santiago de Chile international airport is now closed and is not expected to open for the next 72 hours. Damage is primarily to the main terminal and roads connecting the city of Santiago with this airport.
- A Tsunami alert has been issued for Hawaii, American Samoa and Guam.

• Information from Buenos Aires indicates that no major damage was registered in border cities on the Argentine side.

HEALTH SITUATION

- Preliminary information indicates damage to four hospitals: Talca, Parral, Halañe and Nicanten. Patients in these facilities were transferred to other health centers. Damage to other hospitals of lower-level complexity in Barral and Llaiten was registered.
- The Temuco hospital registered minor damage, and some services were evacuated.
- The San José Hospital in Santiago de Chile was damaged.
- Authorities from Chile's Ministry of Health visited the affected areas to assess the severity of the damage.
- The PAHO/WHO Country Office in Santiago de Chile suffered some damage and is not functional at this time. Staff are operating from their residences.

PAHO/WHO RESPONSE

- PAHO/WHO staff is monitoring the situation, and the PAHO/WHO Representatives of Chile and Argentina have been contacted.
- A PAHO/WHO disaster expert has been mobilized and will arrive in Chile tomorrow. Sunday February 28.
- The PAHO/WHO Emergency Response Team is on standby in case there is need for international health assistance.

Chile has yet not indicated whether or not it will require international assistance.



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