

Chile Earthquake – Infrastructure Update 03 March 2010

Background

On 27 February at 03:34 am (local time) an earthquake with a magnitude of 8.8 on the Richter scale has struck off the Chilean coast. At least 700 people are reported dead and numbers are expected to rise. More than 2 million people are affected.

The Government of Chile has declared 6 regions as zones of catastrophe. These are Valparaiso, Metropolitana, Libertador O'Higgins, Araucania, BioBio and Maule.

The epicentre of the earthquake was 325km southwest of Santiago, 35km depth, with Concepcion, the second largest city in Chile (population approx 200,000) most affected, together with Curico, Talca and Rengo.

The Government identifies main needs including field hospitals with surgery facilities, dialysis centres, generators, satellite phones, water purification system, and mobile bridges.¹



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1) Santiago - Arturo Merino Benitez International Airport (IATA:SCL / ICAO:SCEL)

Source: International Air Transport Association (IATA)

Domestic

- **Domestic flights are not operating 24H.**
- On 03 March, the **Domestic terminal** is expected to re-open first and **to be used for both domestic and international flights.**
- Domestic departures will be scheduled from 0800 to 2000.
- Passenger check-in and international arrivals will be processed in a temporary tent facility.

International

- **International flights are not operating 24H.**
- International departures are expected **to resume** on Wednesday morning, **03 March** from 0200 to 0800, with full security procedures implemented.
- International airlines will be allowed to resume flights also on 03 March, but only with prior **approval** from the Direccion General de Aeronautica Civil (**DGAC**) until the airport officially re-opens to scheduled/regular passenger service. The authorization process will be as follows:
 - § DGAC receive requests
 - § Evaluate capacity
 - § Designate slots
 - § One flight at a time in the beginning and slowly increase until return to regular.
- **All international flights must first stop at a domestic airport** where Customs and Immigrations services are expected to be available (as of 02 March) prior to arriving at Santiago.
- The plan is that **as of 05 March** all international flights are **to be operational 24H.** Custom and Immigration services will be available for international arrivals and **no longer require first stopping at a domestic airport.** Commercial cargo operations will not resume until the three warehouses have been certified for use. Ministry of Public works confirmed damage to building has been evaluated, problems have been identified and worst items under repair.

The fuel farm is functioning and aircraft will be allowed to fuel in Santiago.

¹ Source: OCHA Chile Earthquake No.1, 27 Feb 2010

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Air operators are urged to monitor the latest NOTAMs, and additional information is available on the DGAC website <http://www.dgac.cl>

2) Seaports *(Source: GAC)*

- **Northern ports** (Arica, Iquique, Antofagasta, Patillos, Patache, Hausco, Caldera, Coquimbo, Los Vilos) are working under normal condition.
- **Central ports** (Quintero, Las Ventanas, Valparaíso, San Antonio) are **being assessed**; potential damage of port installations.
- **Quintero/ Las Ventanas:**
 Pier No.1 = Operative/to be checked by authorities
 Pier No.2 = Out of service/acid line collapsed
 Pier No.3 = Inoperative/under reparation.
 Pier No.5 = Inoperative/Crane No.1 collapsed and fell into the sea; crane No.2 could be operative in 24-48 hrs
- **San Antonio:**
 Pier No.8 = Crane No.1 of Pier 8 fallen into the sea/Crane No.2 undamaged
 Piers No.4–5 undamaged
 Pier No.6 sunk a few meters; STI = no damage reported.
- **Valparaiso:**
 Piers No.1–2–3 = Operative
 Piers No.4–5 = Damage reported but still **under assessment**
 Pier No.6–7–8 = Register of damage, still **under assessment**
- **Southern/Central ports (Talcahuano, Coronele, San Vicente, Lirquen, Penco, Dry Dock): all port & terminals closed due to tsunami and serious port damage. No further details currently available.**
- **Southern ports** (Puerto Montt, Corral, Calbuco) are working under normal conditions.
- **Patagonian ports** (Punta Arenas, Terminals) are working under normal conditions.

Pilotage:

- **LONG PILOTAGE** (Ancud/Laitec to Possession Bay and vice versa): As pilots cannot fly to Puerto Montt, they have to embark at Valparaíso instead of Ancud or Laitec, and vice versa, disembark at Valparaíso. Possession Bay operating normally.
- **SHORT PILOTAGE** (Possession Bay to Punta Arenas and vice versa): Operating normally; pilots embarking and disembarking normally at each point.

3) Roads

- Conditions of many roads and bridges still being assessed. The government has prioritized the re-opening of major roads to ensure minimum connectivity to affected zones. *(Source: OCHA, 02 March)*
- **The Paso Internacional Los Libertadores is a mountain pass in the Andes between Argentina and Chile. It is the main transport route out of Chilean capital city Santiago into Mendoza city in Argentina and so carries quite heavy traffic. The pass is open but with significant delays. Priority is being given to private vehicles.**
- **Many sections of Chile's Highway 5 (also known as Route 5 and Ruta 5), heading south from Santiago remains closed. Highway 5 is Chile's longest route and part of the Panamerican Highway.**

4) Communication *(Source: Ericsson)*

- Latest info on different GSM stations across the country is as follows:
 - in Bio-Bio only 19% of GSM towers are functioning;
 - in Maule only 22% are functioning;
 - in Santiago and Valparaiso 67% and 64% respectively are functioning.