



SITUATION

- An earthquake of magnitude 8.3 M, at a depth of 25 km, occurred off the coast of Choapa province in Coquimbo Region, central Chile, on 16 September, at 22.54 UTC. The epicentre was located 46 km west of Illapel. USGS PAGER estimates 42 000 people exposed to Severe and more than 800 000 to Very Strong shaking.
- The major earthquake triggered a tsunami event. A wave of up to 4.5 m was measured in the port city of Coquimbo. A Red tsunami alert was issued for the entire county by SHOA (Navy Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service of Chile), while the PTWC (Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre) forecast tsunami waves in a larger area, including the coasts of Central, South and North America, as well in south and north-western Pacific Ocean, from the French Polynesia to Japan. As of 17 September (UTC), official tsunami warnings have been lifted in Chile, while PTWC advisories remain in effect for California and Hawaii in the U.S.A.
- Aftershocks continue in the area, with the strongest one having 7 M magnitude on 16 September, 23.18 UTC.
- As of 17 September, Chilean authorities (ONEMI) declared Choapa province a disaster zone. They also reported eight people dead (four in Coquimbo), one missing and 1 million evacuated. Floods, landslides and building damages have been reported, with the communities of Illapel, Canela and Salamanca worst affected.
- Regarding the impact from the tsunami, JRC calculations indicate the area between La Serena in Coquimbo region to Concepcion in Bio Bio region as major impact zone.
- On 17 September the Copernicus Emergency Management Service was activated by DG ECHO.
- ECHO is monitoring developments closely.

Source: ECHO, GDACS, USGS(1,2), ONEMI(1,2), SHOA, PTWC(1,2), Copernicus EMS, Media(1,2,3)

