



# Earth



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Issue: September 2015



## Powerful earthquakes hits Chile, South America

Flooding from a tsunami wave covers a roadway in Coquimbo, Chile after EQ on Sep 17  
Source: [Accuweather.com](http://Accuweather.com)

A powerful M8.3 earthquake hit Illapel near the coast of central Chile at 22:54 UTC on Wednesday, September 16 and produced a tsunami which affected the entire Pacific basin. The earthquake occurred as the result of thrust faulting on the interface between the Nazca and South America plates in Central Chile. The quake was the sixth-strongest in Chile's recorded history and was felt thousands of kilometers from the center as far away as California.

There have been aftershocks after the earthquake; most notable are M6.3 occurred on Sep 21, 2015 at 5:39 UTC and M 6.6 occurred on Sep 21, 2015 at 17:40 UTC.



Ships are seen in street due to tsunami waves after earthquake hit Chile. | Source: [Reuters](http://Reuters)

Tsunami warnings were issued along the coasts of Chile, State of California, Hawai'i Island, New Zealand, Japan and American Samoa. 1 million people were evacuated along the Chilean coast, and at least 13 were reported dead, as of September 21, 2015.

Despite the severity of the earthquake, the number of fatalities was relatively low, according to the officials, who believe this was due to strict building codes and city's general preparedness. According to cat modeling firm AIR Worldwide, insured losses due to event may be between USD 600-900 Million and will include physical damage to onshore property (residential, commercial/industrial), both structures and their contents, and auto and direct business interruption losses.



Damage goods in a shopping store at la Serena, Chile | Source: [www.strangesounds.org](http://www.strangesounds.org)

Chile has experienced devastating earthquakes in the past. Located along the Pacific Ring of Fire, one of the most active seismic zones on the planet, the country has experienced 15 earthquakes of magnitude 7.0 or more over the last four decades. Most notable among those are the 1960 earthquake of Moment magnitude Mw9.5 - that is the largest earthquake of the 20th century occurred on May 22, 1960 off the coast of South Central Chile and the 2010 earthquake of Moment Magnitude Mw 8. 8 that is the fourth most costly event with USD 8.9 Billion insured losses.

Source: [USGS](http://USGS), [Swiss Re](http://Swiss Re)



## Tropical Storm "Eta" hits mainland Japan, heavy rain causes flooding & landslides

Flooded Streets in Japan  
Source: Japan Times

Tropical Storm "Eta" made landfall in Aichi prefecture, central Japan, around 01:00 UTC on September 9, 2015 (10:00 local time). After landfall, Eta tracked generally to the northwest and lost tropical characteristics at 12 UTC September 9 over the Sea of Japan.



Rainfall due to Tropical Storm Eta | Source: www.weather.com

Eta did not cause significant damage near the landfall location from wind or precipitation, but it has produced prodigious rainfall and flooding several hundred kilometers to the east of where it tracked across Honshu. Till Sep 13, at least 7 people were confirmed dead and 15 were missing.

Besides damaging houses and properties the floods caused by heavy rainfall overflowed the drainage pumps of Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant, resulting in leakage of radioactive water in the ocean.

No insured property loss numbers are available so far; however, the Japanese insurance companies may expect to see flood related claims.

Source: Japan Meteorological Agency

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