

Abstract

Gabriel Valdés Alonzo

Chile is a country with one of the highest seismicities of the world. With around 15 earthquakes daily and a history of catastrophic events during its history, the earthquake risk in Chile is an important topic that needs to be addressed and prevented to diminish life and monetary losses. During the last 60 years there have been at least 5 major earthquakes, including ones such as Valdivia earthquake, the 9.5 Mw event and biggest earthquake recorded to date in the world or the 27F earthquake of 2010, with a magnitude of 8.8 Mw, around 500 lives lost and monetary losses that ascend to around US\$30 billion. Every big earthquake has left new ways to confront these situations and reduce the risks associated with this problem. Since earthquakes are unavoidable, the main focus is put in prevention for future events. This is done mainly emphasizing in stricter laws and education of the population. Building codes in Chile are one of the strictest in the world and are thoroughly enforced through imprisonment for the engineers that are deemed responsible for any damage or life loss occurred in a particular structure, with no less than three years confinement. Education and training is done through vertical evacuation drills that are conducted once or twice a year in every coastal city, teaching population where the safe zones are and which roads to take to find shelter in the hills for an upcoming tsunami. Finally, the cultural approach is also very important. Every person knows what to do and how to react to an earthquake, and since kindergarten children are taught how to protect themselves in case of an event, or how to detect strong safe zones inside a structure.