

# *Chilean Government Locates Origin of Blaze*

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Santiago, April 15 (RHC) -- The Chilean government has managed to identify the original seat of a devastating fire that has ravaged the port city of Valparaiso over the past few days, local media has reported.

The blaze started near a landfill in El Peral rural estate in Valparaiso, located along the La Polvora road, Valparaiso's regional prosecutor, Eduardo Fernandez, said.

The authorities reached this conclusion based on accounts of eyewitnesses, mainly a caretaker working for the National Forest Corporation (Conaf), Fernandez said.

The blaze then spread toward the hills, destroying about 2,000 homes and forcing thousands of residents to evacuate.

Fernandez said the cause of the fire is still under investigation, adding "we cannot say whether it was arson." According to the latest reports, the massive blaze that erupted on Saturday has killed 16 people and firefighters are still battling against it.



**Radio Habana Cuba**