

Magnitude 6.0 Quake Shakes Northern Chile



Santiago de Chile, June 20 (Xinhua-RHC) -- An earthquake measuring 6.0 on the Richter scale shook Chile's northern regions of Antofagasta and Tarapaca on Thursday, the National Seismological Center (CNS) reported.

The quake occurred at 3:54 local time (1954 GMT) and its epicenter was located 94 km north of the city of Iquique, in Tarapaca, 1,800 km north of the capital Santiago, at a depth of 41 km, the CNS said.

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) reported a 5.2-magnitude quake hit 80 km northwest of Iquique at 1959 GMT. The USGS located the epicenter, with a depth of 16.73 km, at 19.7844 degrees south latitude and 70.7524 degrees west longitude.

Chile's National Emergency Office said the quake so far has left no victims or material damage. The northern region registered two more moderate quakes, 5.4 and 4.9 on the Richter scale, during the day.

North Chile was rocked by a powerful 8.2-magnitude quake on April 1, followed by a 7.9-magnitude quake two days later. Both quakes were centered in Tarapaca, and left six people dead and at least 3,000 buildings damaged.

Chile lies on one of the world's most seismically active regions, with its west coast running along the so-called Pacific Ring of Fire.

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