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Subject: Major quake rattles Chile-CNN

CC:

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updated 6 minutes ago

Major quake rattles Chile

- * Story Highlights
- * U.S. Geological Survey calculates Chilean quake's magnitude at 7.7
- * Quake felt strongly in capital of Santiago
- * There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries from region

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) -- A major earthquake rocked a large area of northern Chile on Wednesday, toppling power lines and closing roads.

Video from Antofagasta, Chile, on Wednesday shows earthquake damage.

There were no immediate reports of injuries from the quake, which was felt hundreds of miles away in the capital, as well as in neighboring Peru and Bolivia.

The U.S. Geological Survey calculated the quake's magnitude at 7.7.

The earthquake, which struck at 12:40 p.m. (10:40 a.m. ET), was centered 780 miles north of Santiago, or 25 miles east-southeast of Tocopilla, the USGS said. See where the quake occurred »

The USGS said it occurred about 37.3 miles beneath the surface.

Presidential spokesman Ricardo Lagos Weber said it was centered in the Andean village of Quillahua, near Calama, site of the large Chuquicamata copper mine.

Initial reports "indicate that there have been no injuries, but some damage has occurred, apparently not serious," he said.

Andrea Riveros, a spokeswoman for the Park Hotel in Calama, about 60 miles east-southeast of the epicenter, said the quake knocked out power to the hotel.

"It was horribly strong. It was very long and there was a lot of