

North Bay Company Offering Support in Quake Ravaged Chile

March 16, 2010

for immediate release

NORTH BAY – Cementation, a North Bay based underground mine contracting and engineering company that provides services throughout North and South America, has been providing supplies and assistance to earthquake ravaged Chile.

On February 27, an 8.8-magnitude earthquake centered near the Chilean city of Concepcion caused heavy damage throughout the country including nearby Santiago, where Cementation had recently opened their South American base of operations. Since February 27, the country has been hit with a tsunami as well as 298 aftershocks, 77 of which measured greater than 5-magnitude and a further 18 which were very strong and measured between 6 and 7-magnitude as per the USGS US Geological Survey.

“We were all relieved to hear that none of our employees or their immediate families suffered any physical injuries from the earthquake,” explained Cementation President Roy Slack.

Immediately following the initial quake, Pedro Gonzalez, Cementation’s VP of South American Operations, and his team assembled food, water and other necessities to deliver by truck to the worst hit areas. While this delivery effort was held back a few days due to road conditions and a concern for the safety of the drivers, once national drop sites were established, the supplies were sent out.

“Chile was hit very hard, but fortunately the country has earthquake proofing measures in place, which prevented this from being an even greater tragedy,” Gonzalez said adding that their office suffered some non-structural damage, and that their mining projects were far enough from the epicenter to be spared any significant damage.

In addition to Cementation’s ongoing relief efforts in Chile, the company also launched a global “Friends of Chile” fund and is encouraging employees to assist where they can with financial donations. The company has agreed to match any donations made by North American staff and both Murray & Roberts, Cementation’s parent company based in South Africa and Cementation’s South African operation, have pledged financial support to the fund.

“We have a very generous and kind hearted staff who have really spearheaded this initiative on behalf of our South American family and any assistance we can offer to help Chile put itself back together will be greatly appreciated,” Slack said.

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Quick Facts:

- GPS readings taken by university teams from Ohio State, Hawaii, and Memphis, and the California Institute of Technology, and agencies across South America, showed that the city of Concepcion shifted 10 feet to the west, and Santiago, 11 inches to the west-southwest following the earthquake.
- NASA scientists credited the quake with shifting the Earth's axis enough to create shorter days and while negligible at 1.26 microseconds, the preliminary calculations are still worth noting.

From: <http://www.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/americas/03/09/chile.earth.shifts/index.html>

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