

TODAY World

IMAGES /CHILE

Fires out of control, a gas depot also explodes: "51 dead, victims destined to increase"

In Chile, firefighters and the army are in the field to fight the fires that are devastating various areas of the country. Among the most affected is the famous area of Valparaiso



Redazione

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The fires in Chile, photo Lapresse

The death toll from the fires that are affecting central Chile and in particular the Valparaiso region has risen to 51. Local authorities speak of an unprecedented

disaster: as of midday on Saturday, a total of 92 fires were active, strong winds fanned the flames and a blanket of black smoke covered the streets.



The scale of the devastation in a Lapresse photo

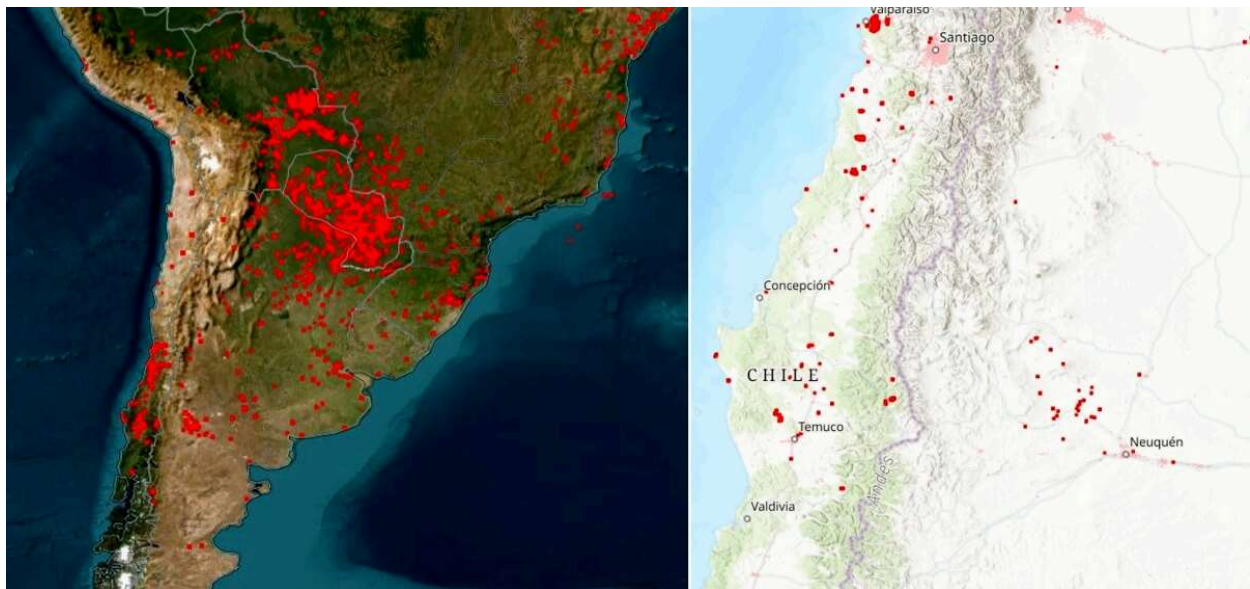
At least 1,100 houses and 46,000 hectares of vegetation and woodland were severely damaged by the fire. In the video below, the hills surrounding Valparaiso are completely engulfed in flames.

Among the most serious incidents of the last few hours were reported the explosion of a gas depot in Viña del Mar, accompanied by multiple explosions, and the destruction of the Tricolor paint factory, and nearby chemical plants, in the El Salto sector of the industrial area of Viña del Mar. Fortunately, the staff had been evacuated in time.



The situation in Valparaiso

Chilean President Gabriel Boric warns his compatriots: "Given the conditions of the tragedy, the number of victims will certainly increase in the coming hours."



Satellite images show the extent of the fires

Chilean Interior Minister Carolina Tohá explained that there are currently 92 forest fires burning in the center and south of the country, where temperatures have been unusually high this week.

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