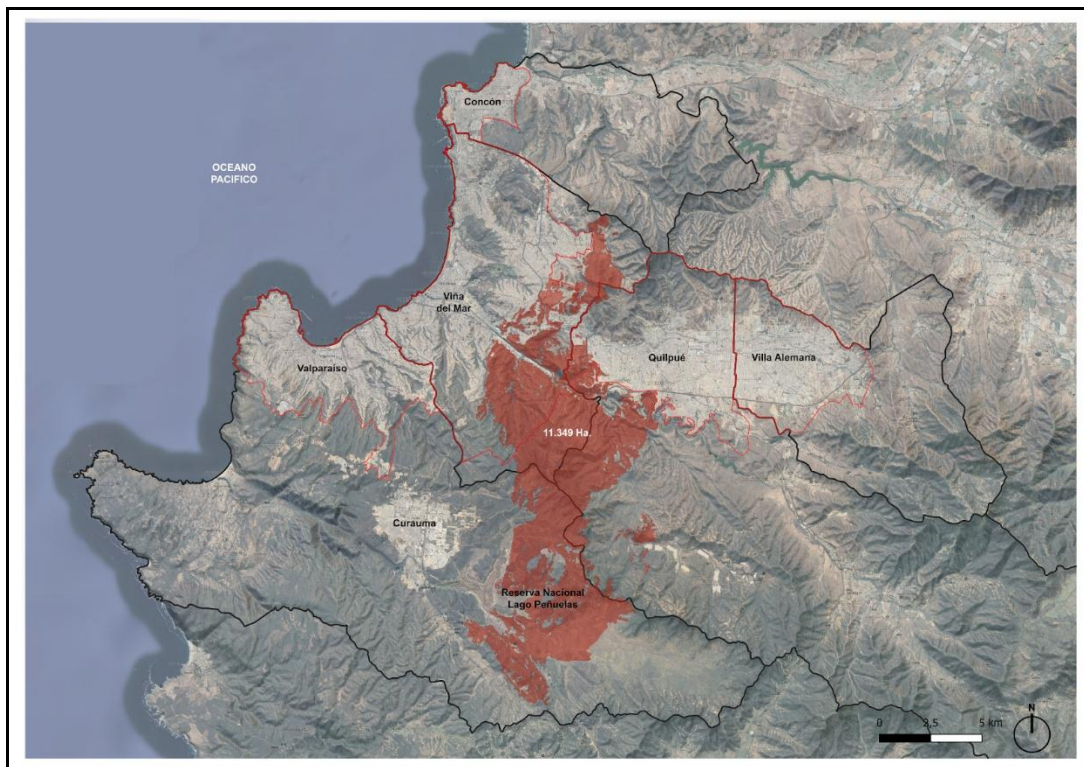


Contextualization Field Work, Valparaíso Region

i-Rec Conference, May 27-29, 2025

On February 2024, the Valparaíso region was struck by a devastating wildland-urban interface fire known as the "Complejo Las Tablas – Reserva Lago Peñuelas and Lo Moscoso." This event severely impacted the municipalities of Valparaíso, Viña del Mar, Quilpué, and Villa Alemana (Valparaíso Region), leaving a tragic toll of 135 fatalities and three missing persons, making it the deadliest urban fire in Chile's recent history.

The fire consumed a total of 11,349 hectares, with significant losses in urban areas (428 hectares) and rural zones (10,921 hectares). The most affected land cover types were forests (53%) and grasslands/shrublands (39%). In human and housing terms, 21,229 people were directly impacted, and 8,188 homes suffered significant damage or were completely destroyed. The most severely affected areas included El Olivar, Villa Independencia, and the Manuel Bustos informal settlement in Viña del Mar, as well as Canal Chacao, Población Argentina, and Pompeya in Quilpué¹.



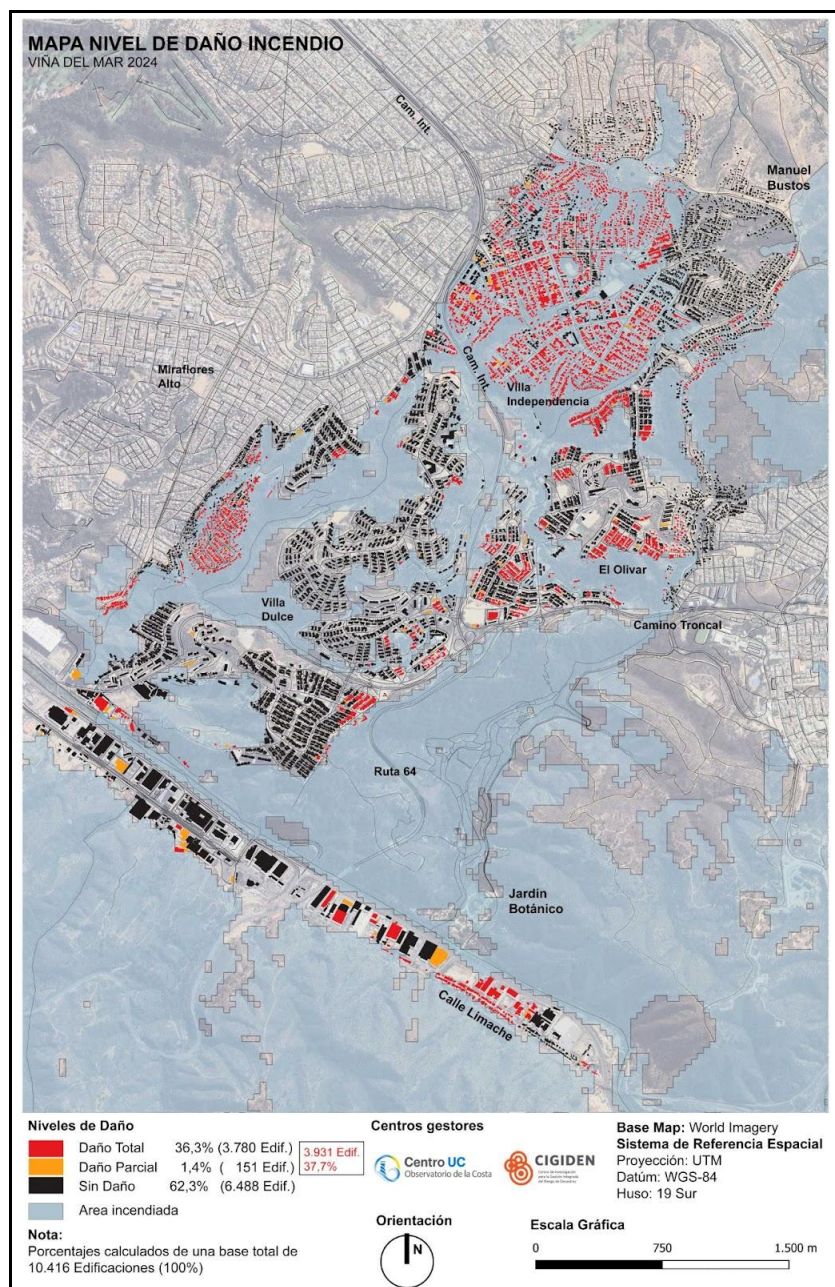
Area affected by the wildfire, metropolitan scale (Own elaboration, 2025)

The emergency unfolded under extreme weather conditions, characterized by record-high temperatures reaching 37.3°C and wind gusts up to 85 km/h. These conditions, coupled with extremely low relative humidity, created an ideal scenario for rapid fire spread, impacting densely populated urban areas and

¹ Extracted from: Ministerio de Desarrollo Social y Familia. (2024). *Plan de reconstrucción: Incendios forestales Viña del Mar, Quilpué y Villa Alemana, febrero 2024*. Gobierno de Chile.

protected natural zones such as the Lago Peñuelas National Reserve and the National Botanical Garden. The fire not only caused the destruction of homes and community infrastructure but also triggered a profound socioeconomic crisis, affecting more than 500 local businesses, particularly in sectors such as commerce, services, and construction. Additionally, ecological damages include the loss of biodiversity and essential ecosystem services vital to the region.

Currently, the Ministry of Social Development and Family is leading a Reconstruction Plan in coordination with various ministries to facilitate recovery in affected areas. However, for communities that experienced the tragedy of losing family members, neighbours, and property, the reconstruction process remains especially sensitive. Progress to date has been uneven, generating concern among residents of the impacted territories.



Diagnosis of affected buildings in Viña del Mar (CIGIDEN, February 2024)