

Geology: A New Instrument of Urban Territorial Planning at Concepción, Chile; Ethical Aspects of Geological Risks

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The urban expansion of Concepción has strongly increased during the last years. In this area several geological processes affect people's lives and their infrastructure, such as landslides, seismicity, overflow of clay soils, dynamic amplification of seismic waves and structural faulting. For the first time in Chile, a commune provides the execution of geological studies in order to avoid groundless restrictions to the urban development. The New Local Urban Territorial Planning, settle "Sensitive Areas of Natural Risk" in those in which there is the possibility of occurrence of natural processes which could constitute a risk for the civil works and/or public areas. The objective of the "Study of Risks" is to verify and warn of the danger and/or risks, potencial or proven, above and/or below surface, and/or becoming from adjacent areas, in connection with civil works

For the already constructed area, the question concern the information of geologic risks that could occur. Some buildings has been founded on faults or near dangerous sites. Is it ethical to inform those probables risks to the users?. Is it moral induce an eventual panic or permanent concern about the probable occurrence of a process(e.g. seismicity and eventual activation of faults)?. In case the process does happen and causes losses of lives, is it moral and ethical not to have informed?.