Here is some news from Lota, not far from the epicenter, where the Assumptionists have a community and two schools (1-8 and 9-12). Lota is located on the Pacific Ocean just south of Concepción. There is a coastal area (Lota Bajo) and an elevated area (Lota Alto).

"The promontory in Lota Alto has split in two, other, smaller hills as well.
Houses in certain sections of the city remain unstable; many have collapsed.
The highway to Arauca is heavily damaged.
People are living in tents and drinking water from broken water mains.
There is no gas or electricity.
Stores are being looted. The government is sending troops to patrol the streets.
Fortunately, no tsunami hit here.
Our grammar school, Francisco de Crozé, sustained some damage: the entrance wall has collapsed and other walls have been weakened and will need to be repaired or replaced.
Our high school, Emmanuel d'Alzon, suffered damage as well; lots of equipment and furniture has been damaged. There is fear that much of the foundation may have been compromised.

Fortunately, none of our religious was hurt."

Fr. Nelson Egaña, AA
Monday, March 1, 2010