Several forest fires have been affecting the country over the past weeks causing casualties and damages. As of 25 January, the National Emergency Office of the Ministry of Interior and Public Security (ONEMI) reported 36 active forest fires (of which 30 have been controlled and one has been extinguished) in the regions of Coquimbo, Valparaíso, Metropolitana, O’Higgins, Maule, Biobío, La Araucanía. They also reported that an area of 156,424 ha have been burnt, as of 25 January at 12:00 UTC.

According to National Authorities, as of 25 January, three firefighters have been reported dead in Vichuquen city (Curico province, Maule region) and 30 people have suffered minor injuries of which three in Vichuquen, 15 in Cauquenes municipality (Cauquenes province, Maule region), nine in Bulnes city (Nuble province, Biobío region), two more in Curacavi city (Melipilla province, Santiago Metropolitan region) and another in Paredones municipality (Cardenal Caro province, O’Higgins region).

They also mentioned, as of the same date, that over 100 people have been evacuated and over 330 houses have been damaged in the regions of Maule, O’Higgins, Biobío, Metropolitan and Valparaíso.

Over the next 24 hours meteorological conditions with strong winds with bursts between 20 and 40 km/h and extreme high temperatures are forecast to affect the areas.