

Chilean Earthquake May Roil Pulp and Paper Market

Pulp prices which have risen substantially over the past year could increase dramatically over the next few months. Chile currently accounts for about 9% of the worldwide output of pulp. Currently all the pulp mills are shut down as a result of the recent magnitude 8.8 earthquake. Significant damage to the ports and other infrastructure such as roads and bridges makes it impossible to project when this capacity will come back on line. Loss of this capacity could cause pulp prices to spike which, in turn, could drive significant increases on many grades of paper including thermal paper over the next 2 – 3 months.



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