

**THE SMUGGLING OF THE FIREFIGHTERS BY NOT BEING ABLE TO DO MORE ...  
FOR THE OTHERS**

**An experience in applying the GFSC model with the Constitution Fire Brigade, Chile,  
after the Earthquake of February 2010**

**By Maria Francia Utard**

**Narrative of History:**

One of the most impressive experiences in this work of psychosocial reconstruction was when I worked with the Firemen, in the city of Constitucion, Chile, after the earthquake of February 2010. There, the firemen had not had time or possibility of, I would not say to cry as a maximum expression of sadness, but they did not even had time to process what was the impact of the earthquake for them.

They told the story of helplessness, for example, in the face of the impossibility of crossing the river to save people who were in front of the City of Constitution, on an island where they had finished a concert the night before, and to hear people shouting, asking for help. However, they cannot cross, because if they crossed with the boat they had, they could disappear by the current and they would stop delivering their services to the rest of the population.

On the other hand, some told us, one in particular, to get to his house and see that his family had died and not be able to take care of them, because between his deceased family and other people with life, they had to tear his heart and go to save lives.

Those situations, and others that they told, were very mobilizing and liberating for them, when working with our methodology. For them liberating and for me, very shocking.



**Imagen: bomba2.cl**

### **Summary of the results:**

In this case, I worked with Enrique Rabajille and we applied the GFSC model. We stopped a lot in the after the earthquake event, listening to their stories, their tears. I would have liked to work more time, since we worked only one day, however we consider that we achieved the goal of getting that they were able to express their feelings.

### **Reflection of the author:**

I learned the importance of attending to those who are the main actors in saving lives, after an earthquake or any type of emergency.

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