



Revision Guides

Natural Hazards



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Introduction

A natural hazard is a threat of a naturally occurring event will have a negative effect on humans. This negative effect is what we call a natural disaster. In other words when the hazardous threat actually happens and harms humans, we call the event a natural disaster.

What are these...

Earthquakes
Volcanic Eruptions
Tsunami
Landslides
Floods
Droughts
Hurricanes
Tornadoes
Asteroid Impacts

Are we responsible...

Although humans can sometimes influence natural disasters (for example when poor levee design results in a flood). Other disasters that are directly generated by humans, such as oil and toxic material spills and pollution.

Also, Massive automobile or train wrecks, airplane crashes, and human induced explosions, are considered technological disasters, and will not be considered in this course, except when they occur as a secondary result of a natural disaster.

Effects...

Primary Effects occur as a result of the process itself. For example water damage during a flood or collapse of buildings during an earthquake, landslide, or hurricane.

Secondary Effects occur only because a primary effect has caused them. For example, fires ignited as a result of earthquakes, disruption of electrical power and water service as a result of an earthquake, flood, or hurricane, or flooding caused by a landslide into a lake or river.

Tertiary Effects are long-term effects that are set off as a result of a primary event. These include things like loss of habitat caused by a flood, permanent changes in the position of river channel caused by flood, crop failure caused by a volcanic eruption etc.

Can we Predict....

Yes, a statement of probability can be given that an event will occur based on scientific observation. Such observation usually involves monitoring of the process in order to identify some kind of pre-event(s).

For Examples: Hurricanes can be predicted by identifying the tropical depression stage, once this is done, monitoring allows meteorologists to predict how long the development will take and the eventual path of the storm.



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