

Natural Disasters

When something is **natural**, it comes from nature and it is not manmade. A **disaster** is something that usually causes major problems. **Natural disasters** are catastrophes that occur in nature or by natural processes. They are not manmade. A natural disaster takes place in populated areas of the world where people die or get injured, property is severely damaged, and the economy is negatively affected.

Examples of natural disasters are asteroid collisions with Earth, avalanches, landslides, blizzards, thunderstorms, earthquakes, floods, volcanoes, heat waves, hurricanes, droughts, tornados, tsunamis,



hail, and wildfires. Some of the listed disasters may occur simultaneously such as hurricanes and thunderstorms or heatwaves and wildfires or landslides during severe flooding and thunderstorms.



Natural disasters cause a loss. There are many things that can happen during a natural disaster. For example, if a tsunami takes place on an uninhabited island, it would not

be a disaster because no one would die.

In addition, there are natural disasters that can occur more often in one part of the world or country than in other regions. For example, a person living in the middle of the United States would not need to be concerned with a tsunami, but

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someone living along the coast would be affected. In the middle of the country, a tornado might occur, but often there are fewer of them along the coast.

Natural disasters occur throughout the world, and often people know when they are coming. Thus, they can prepare for them and be safe. Other disasters may occur without warning. Most people die during a natural disaster when there is no time to prepare for it. Though natural disasters cause many problems, injuries, and sometimes death, they are not to be feared, but being aware of them and properly prepared is extremely important.