

## Natural Disasters Series Introduction

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Damaging effects from natural disasters take place when preparedness and planning have not. Natural hazards (fire, earthquake, flood, landslide, etc.) shock a community with harm and damage, but human vulnerability is exacerbated from a lack of planning or proper design; thus, a natural disaster may occur. It is crucial that the built environments and citizens are prepared for such hazards in order to avoid financial, environmental, and human losses. This series includes photos of several different natural disasters. While viewing these photos you may choose to consider how the following keywords apply to each photo. Then, consider how these keywords may apply to potential natural hazards within your community and how your community can be prepared.

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### Natural Disaster Definition:

Any event or force of nature that has catastrophic consequences, such as avalanche, earthquake, flood, forest fire, hurricane, lightning, tornado, tsunami, and volcanic eruption. (*Webster's New Millennium Dictionary of English*)

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### Keywords:

avalanche, blizzard, build on safe and appropriate landscapes, drought, earthquake, emergency preparedness and services, epidemic, fire, flood, floodplain, heat wave, infestation, landslide, liquefaction, pandemic, sinkholes, slope, tornado