**Definition of natural disaster**

: a sudden and terrible event in nature (such as a hurricane, tornado, or flood) that usually results in serious damage and many deaths

A **natural disaster** is a major [adverseevent](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Disaster) resulting from [natural processes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_hazard) ofthe Earth; examples are [floods](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flood), [hurricanes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hurricane), [tornadoes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tornado), [volcanic eruptions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volcanic_eruption), [earthquakes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earthquake), [tsunamis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tsunami), and other geologic processes. A natural disaster can cause loss of life or property damage, and typically leaves some economic damage in its wake, the severity of which depends on the affected population's [resilience](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Resilience_(ecology)), or ability to recover and also on the infrastructure available.

An adverse event will not rise to the level of a disaster if it occurs in an area without vulnerable population.[3][4] In a vulnerable area, however, such as Nepal during the 2015 earthquake, an earthquake can have disastrous consequences and leave lasting damage, which can require years to repair

TYPES OF NUTURAL DISASTERS

* [**1Geological disasters**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_disaster#Geological_disasters)
  + [1.1Avalanches and landslides](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_disaster#Avalanches_and_landslides)
  + [1.2Earthquakes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_disaster#Earthquakes)
  + [1.3Sinkholes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_disaster#Sinkholes)
  + [1.4Volcanic eruptions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_disaster#Volcanic_eruptions)
* [**2Hydrological disasters**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_disaster#Hydrological_disasters)
  + [2.1Floods](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_disaster#Floods)
  + [2.2Tsunami](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_disaster#Tsunami)
  + [2.3Limnic eruptions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_disaster#Limnic_eruptions)
* [**3Meteorological disasters**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_disaster#Meteorological_disasters)
  + [3.1Cyclonic storms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_disaster#Cyclonic_storms)
  + [3.2Blizzards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_disaster#Blizzards)
  + [3.3Hailstorms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_disaster#Hailstorms)
  + [3.4Ice storms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_disaster#Ice_storms)
  + [3.5Cold waves](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_disaster#Cold_waves)
  + [3.6Heat waves](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_disaster#Heat_waves)
  + [3.7Droughts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_disaster#Droughts)
  + [3.8Thunderstorms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_disaster#Thunderstorms)
  + [3.9Tornadoes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_disaster#Tornadoes)
* [4Wildfires](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_disaster#Wildfires)
* [**5Space disasters**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_disaster#Space_disasters)
  + [5.1Impact events and airburst](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_disaster#Impact_events_and_airburst)
  + [5.2Solar flare](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_disaster#Solar_flare)

**Avalanches and landslides-**

**A**[**landslide**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Landslide)**is described as an outward and downward slope movement of an abundance of slope-forming materials including rock, soil, artificial, or even a combination of these things.**[**[5]**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_disaster#cite_note-Landslides-5)

**During**[**World War I**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I)**, an estimated 40,000 to 80,000 soldiers died as a result of**[**avalanches**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avalanche)**during the mountain campaign in the**[**Alps**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alps)**at the**[**Austrian-Italian**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italian_Front_(World_War_I))**front. Many of the avalanches were caused by artillery fire.**[**[6]**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_disaster#cite_note-6)[**[7]**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_disaster#cite_note-7)

**-Preparation**

**• Wear an avalanche rescue beacon that *signals your location***

**• Learn how to use the rescue equipment.**

**• Practice using the rescue equipment.**

**Awareness**

**• Constantly evaluate avalanche conditions.**

**• Areas with fresh accumulations of wind-driven snow are particularly vulnerable.**

**• Extremely steep slopes particularly in shaded areas near a ridge are also risky.**

**أعلى النموذج**

**• Always travel with a partner. Descend risky areas one by one and watch for avalanche signs.**

**What to Do If Caught**

**• If caught in a slide, try to get off the slab or grab A TREE**

**• If swept away, swim to the surface.**

**Rescue**

**• Carry a small shovel and a long probe to locate a buried partner.**

**• Evaluate the avalanche hazard before attempting a rescue.**

**Earthquakes-**

An [earthquake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earthquake) is the result of a sudden release of energy in the [Earth's](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earth) [crust](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crust_(geology)) that creates [seismic waves](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seismic_wave). At the Earth's surface, earthquakes manifest themselves by vibration, shaking, and sometimes displacement of the ground. Earthquakes are caused by slippage within geological [faults](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fault_(geology)). The underground point of origin of the earthquake is called the *seismic focus*. The point directly above the focus on the surface is called the *epicenter*. Earthquakes by themselves rarely kill people or wildlife. It is usually the secondary events that they trigger such as building collapse, fires, [tsunamis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tsunami) (seismic sea waves) and volcanoes. Many of these could possibly be avoided by better construction, safety systems, early warning and planning.

**5 things to avoid if an earthquake strikes**

1. Don’t wait to have an earthquake plan

2. Don’t tie up phone lines during an earthquake

3. Don’t leave household items unsecured

4. Don’t run outside during an earthquake

5. Don’t turn on the gas after a quake

-**Sinkholes**

When natural erosion, human mining or underground excavation makes the ground too weak to support the structures built on it, the ground can collapse and produce a [sinkhole](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinkhole). For example, the [2010 Guatemala City sinkhole](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_Guatemala_City_sinkhole) which killed fifteen people was caused when heavy rain from [Tropical Storm Agatha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tropical_Storm_Agatha_(2010)), diverted by leaking pipes into a [pumice](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pumice) bedrock, led to the sudden collapse of the ground beneath a factory building

**Volcanic eruptions-**

[**Volcanoes**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volcano)**can cause widespread destruction and consequent disaster in several ways. The effects include the**[**volcanic eruption**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Types_of_volcanic_eruptions)**itself that may cause harm following the explosion of the volcano or falling rocks. Secondly,**[**lava**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lava)**may be produced during the eruption of a volcano, and so as it leaves the volcano the lava destroys many buildings, plants and animals due to its extreme heat. Thirdly,**[**volcanic ash**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volcanic_ash)**, generally meaning the cooled ash, may form a cloud, and settle thickly in nearby locations. When mixed with water this forms a concrete-like material. In sufficient quantities, ash may cause roofs to collapse under its weight but even small quantities will harm humans if inhaled. Since the ash has the consistency of ground glass it causes abrasion damage to moving parts such as engines. The main killer of humans in the immediate surroundings of a volcanic eruption is the**[**pyroclastic flows**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pyroclastic_flows)**, which consist of a cloud of hot volcanic ash which builds up in the air above the volcano and rushes down the slopes when the eruption no longer supports the lifting of the gases. It is believed that**[**Pompeii**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pompeii)**was destroyed by a pyroclastic flow. A**[**lahar**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lahar)**is a volcanic mudflow or landslide. The 1953 [Tangiwai disaster](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tangiwai_disaster" \o "Tangiwai disaster) was caused by a lahar, as was the 1985 [Armero tragedy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armero_tragedy" \o "Armero tragedy) in which the town of Armero was buried and an estimated 23,000 people were killed.**

**Volcanoes rated at 8 (the highest level) on the**[**Volcanic Explosivity Index**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volcanic_Explosivity_Index)**are known as [supervolcanoes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supervolcano" \o "Supervolcano). According to the**[**Toba catastrophe theory**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toba_catastrophe_theory)**, 75,000 to 80,000 years ago a supervolcanic eruption at what is now**[**Lake Toba**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Toba)**in**[**Sumatra**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sumatra)**reduced the human population to 10,000 or even 1,000 breeding pairs, creating a bottleneck in human evolution,**[**[8]**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_disaster#cite_note-8)**and killed three-quarters of all plant life in the northern hemisphere. However, there is considerable debate regarding the veracity of this theory. The main danger from a supervolcano is the immense cloud of ash, which has a disastrous global effect on climate and temperature for many years.**

***Safety Tips \****

**• As much as possible, stay away from active volcanoes.**

**• If you live near an active volcano, keep goggles and a mask in an emergency kit, along with a flashlight and a working, battery-operated radio.**

**• Know your evacuation route. Keep gas in your car.**

**If a Volcano Erupts in Your Area**

**• Evacuate only as recommended by authorities to stay clear of**[**lava**](http://volcano.oregonstate.edu/what-lava-made)**, mud flows, and flying rocks and debris.**

**• Avoid river areas and low-lying regions.**

**• Before you leave the house, change into long-sleeved shirts and long pants and use goggles or eyeglasses, not contacts. Wear an emergency mask or hold a damp cloth over your face.**

**• If you are not evacuating, close windows and doors and block chimneys and other vents, to prevent**[**ash**](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanic_ash/)**from coming into the house**

**• Be aware that ash may put excess weight on your roof and need to be swept away. Wear protection during cleanups.**

**• Ash can damage engines and metal parts, so avoid driving. If you must drive, stay below 35 miles (56 kilometers) an hour.**

**أعلى النموذج**

**Hydrological disasters**

**Floods**

**A**[**flood**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flood)**is an overflow of water that 'submerges' land.**[**[9]**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_disaster#cite_note-9)**The EU**[**Floods Directive**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Floods_Directive)**defines a flood as a temporary covering the land with water which is usually not covered by water.**[**[10]**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_disaster#cite_note-10)**In the sense of 'flowing water', the word may also be applied to the inflow of the**[**tides**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tides)**. Flooding may result from the volume of water within a body of water, such as a**[**river**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River)**or**[**lake**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake)**, which overflows, causing some of the water to escape its usual boundaries.**[**[11]**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_disaster#cite_note-11)**While the size of a lake or other body of water will vary with seasonal changes in precipitation and snow melt, it is not a significant flood unless the water covers land used by man, like a village, city or other inhabited area, roads, expanses of farmland, etc.**

**-WAYS TO PREVENT FLOODS**

**Flooding means there is an excess of water on land that is normally dry. Floods can be caused by heavy rainfall, hurricanes, or a lack of proper drainage in urban areas where there is little open soil to absorb water. Floods can be prevented with proper planning and adoption of effective mitigation measures, particularly in areas prone to flooding.**

**-Improving Drainage**

**Improving water drainage helps control floods by facilitating easy flow of excess water, especially in urban areas during flash floods. Drainage efficacy can be improved by rehabilitating and cleaning water drainage systems, including removing debris and solid waste from drainage systems like storm drains and French drains, de-silting trenches and underground water channels and building galleys. Effective drainage systems can ensure flood waters find a clear waterway, leading to non-risk areas.**

**-Building Dikes and Levees**

**Dikes and levees are flood-control structures built to fight river flooding and water surges. Dikes and levees restrain rivers during floods by providing artificial water channels that prevent runoffs from bursting floodplains. Floodplains are natural waterways that carry excess river water during heavy rainfall. Dike engineers/constructors alter and develop floodplains by building dikes and levees to boost flood-prevention when floodplains well up.**

**-Building Canals**

**Canals are artificial water channels that can be crucial to flood prevention. Canals facilitate control of water levels passing through, and form linear reservoirs and water locks. During flooding, excess water is channeled through canals to non-risk areas further downstream or to other areas with high demand for water, such as arid and semi-arid areas. Canals can also be used to lock excess flood waters in its linear reservoirs to prevent flooding and store water for future use.**

**-Harvesting Rain Water**

**Harvesting rainwater involves collecting and storing rainwater and can not only prevent floods, it can also curb urban water scarcity. Harvested rain water can be cleaned for human consumption and distributed to people in rural areas, as well as urban areas in times of water scarcity. Rain water harvesting is carried out in different ways, including building ponds, storm drains, water retention basins and flood-control dams**

**Tsunami-**

**A tsunami (plural: tsunamis or tsunami; from Japanese: lit. "harbour wave"; English pronunciation: /tsuːˈnɑːmi/), also known as a seismic sea wave or as a tidal wave, is a series of waves in a water body caused by the displacement of a large volume of water, generally in an ocean or a large lake. Tsunamis can be caused by undersea earthquakes such as the**[**2004 Boxing Day tsunami**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2004_Indian_Ocean_earthquake_and_tsunami)**, or by landslides such as the**[**one in 1958 at Lituya Bay, Alaska**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1958_Lituya_Bay_megatsunami)**, or by volcanic eruptions such as the**[**ancient eruption of Santorini**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minoan_eruption)**. On March 11, 2011, a**[**tsunami occurred near Fukushima, Japan**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011_T%C5%8Dhoku_earthquake_and_tsunami)**and spread through the Pacific.**

* **\*How to Prepare**

**• When in coastal areas, stay alert for tsunami warnings.**

**• Learn details of the local warning systems.**

**• Plan an evacuation route that leads to higher ground.**

**• Know the warning signs of a tsunami: rapidly rising or falling coastal waters and rumblings of an offshore**[**earthquake**](http://environment.nationalgeographic.com/environment/natural-disasters/earthquake-profile)**.**

**أعلى النموذج**

**Once It Hits**

**• Never stay near shore to watch a tsunami come in.**

**• A tsunami is a series of waves. Do not return to an affected coastal area until authorities say it is safe.**

**Limnic eruptions-**

**A**[**limnic eruption**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Limnic_eruption)**occurs when a gas, usually**[**CO2**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carbon_dioxide)**, suddenly erupts from deep lake water, posing the threat of suffocating wildlife, livestock and humans. Such an eruption may also cause**[**tsunamis**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tsunami)**in the lake as the rising gas displaces water. Scientists believe**[**landslides**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Landslides)**,**[**volcanic**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volcanic)**activity, or explosions can trigger such an eruption. To date, only two limnic eruptions have been observed and recorded. In 1984, in**[**Cameroon**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cameroon)**, a limnic eruption in**[**Lake Monoun**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Monoun)**caused the deaths of 37 nearby residents, and at nearby**[**Lake Nyos**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Nyos)**in 1986 a much larger eruption killed between 1,700 and 1,800 people by**[**asphyxiation**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asphyxiation)**.**

**Meteorological disastERS**

**Cyclonic storms**

[**Cyclone**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyclone)**,**[**tropical cyclone**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hurricane)**,**[**hurricane**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hurricane)**, and**[**typhoon**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Typhoon)**are different names for the same phenomenon, which is a cyclonic storm system that forms over the oceans. The determining factor on which term is used is based on where they originate. In the Atlantic and Northeast Pacific, the term "hurricane" is used; in the Northwest Pacific it is referred to as a "typhoon" and "cyclones" occur in the South Pacific and Indian Ocean.**

**The deadliest hurricane ever was the**[**1970 Bhola cyclone**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1970_Bhola_cyclone)**; the deadliest Atlantic hurricane was the**[**Great Hurricane of 1780**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Hurricane_of_1780)**which devastated Martinique, St. Eustatius and Barbados. Another notable hurricane is**[**Hurricane Katrina**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hurricane_Katrina)**, which devastated the Gulf Coast of the United States in 2005.**

**Preparing for a cyclone  
Assemble an emergency kit that includes things like first aid supplies, torch, battery operated portable radio, important documents and medicines.**

* **Regularly clear gutters and rubbish from around your property.**
* **Ensure your family members and/or employees know how to turn off mains supply for water, power and gas.**
* **Make sure your property has clear access for emergency services.**
* **Have an evacuation plan and discuss with your family and/or employees.**
* **Regularly check the condition of your property’s roof and arrange the repair of any loose tiles, eaves or roof screws.**
* **Fit windows with shutters or metal screens.**
* **Ensure your vehicle is in good working order.**
* **If you receive a warning for your area, charge your mobile battery and fill up the car if possible.**

**At the onset a cyclone**

* **First and foremost, the safety of you, your loved ones and employees should come first. For any emergencies, please call 000.**
* **Use local alerts and warning systems to get information and expert informed advice.**
* **If safe to do so, move your vehicle undercover and secure any outdoor furniture and other items.**
* **Fill buckets, sinks and baths with water in case the water supply becomes restricted.**
* **Gather everyone indoors including any pets.**
* **Stay away from doors, windows and exterior walls.**
* **Turn off all electricity, gas and water and unplug all appliances.**

**During a cyclone**

* **Listen to your portable radio for updates and remain indoors until advised.**
* **If an official evacuation order is issued, you must leave immediately and seek shelter elsewhere.**

**After a cyclone**

* **If you have been evacuated, don’t return to your property or vehicle until authorities confirm it is safe to do so.**
* **Flooding can occur after a cyclone. Use local alerts and warning systems to get information and expert informed advice.**
* **Stay away from damaged areas and properties.**
* **Don’t use electrical appliances that have been wet until they’ve been checked for safety by a professional.**
* **Drinking water may be contaminated, so listen out for news reports to confirm whether the community’s water supply is safe to drink.**
* **Take photos and dispose of any items that have been affected by contaminated flood waters.**
* **If you have been evacuated, only return to your property when authorities indicate it is safe.**
* **Stay away from damaged power lines, fallen trees and flood waters.**

**Blizzards**

**Blizzards are severe**[**winter storms**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winter_storm)**characterized by heavy snow and strong winds. When high winds stir up snow that has already fallen, it is known as a**[**ground blizzard**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ground_blizzard)**. Blizzards can impact local economic activities, especially in regions where snowfall is rare. The**[**Great Blizzard of 1888**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Blizzard_of_1888)**affected the United States, when many tons of wheat crops were destroyed, and in Asia,**[**2008 Afghanistan blizzard**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2008_Afghanistan_blizzard)**and the**[**1972 Iran blizzard**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1972_Iran_blizzard)**were also significant events. The**[**1993 Superstorm**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1993_Storm_of_the_Century)**originated in the Gulf of Mexico and traveled north, causing damage in 26 states as well as Canada and leading to more than 300 deaths.**[**[12]**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_disaster#cite_note-12)

**These tips will help you brave the storm**

**Don’t underestimate the power of a blizzard.**

**Watching the snow fall from the sky can be calming and therapeutic, but don’t underestimate the power of a blizzard.**

**Blizzards can cause power shortages, treacherous roadways, and**[**sub-zero temperatures**](http://www.thedailymeal.com/cold-weather-survival-guide)**, and if you’re not properly prepared, you may be caught in a dangerous predicament. After a snowfall, the roads are especially slick, and it’s easy for your car to slip off the road. Power outages are also common during extreme weather, and without electricity a house can quickly become unbearably cold.**[**For pet owners**](http://www.thedailymeal.com/12-outrageous-pet-foods)**, a new snowfall presents its own set of challenges. If not guided by a leash, dogs can easily get away from their owners and get lost in the snow.**

**But there’s no reason to be a victim of these blizzard hazards. By employing some simple remedies and precautions, you can enjoy the coziness of the snow storm rather than worry about your safety.**

**Here are 10 ways to stay safe during a blizzard.**

**Avoid Alcohol (Seriously)  
A “whiskey jacket” is a popular way to stay warm, but drinking too much alcohol is not a good idea in extremely cold temperatures.**[**Alcohol is dehydrating**](http://www.thedailymeal.com/news/drink/watch-what-alcohol-does-your-body-it-s-not-pretty/071015)**, which is less noticeable during the winter. Alcohol also interferes with the body’s internal thermometer, which can prevent shivering (not a good thing), and result in an accelerated loss of body heat.**

**Charge Your Cellphone  
The**[**importance of a cellphone can’t be overstated**](http://www.thedailymeal.com/eat/how-do-chefs-really-feel-about-cell-phones-restaurants-0)**. These are the ultimate emergency devices, so make sure yours is charged and ready to go.**

**Don’t Forget About Your Pets  
Blizzards can be especially hazardous for pets. During heavy snowfall, keep your dog on a leash during walks and add some colorful identifying tags to the collar. Also, be wary of melting ice; it can be very painful for dogs to walk over and is**[**potentially toxic if ingested**](http://www.thedailymeal.com/entertain/diet-tips-your-pudgy-puppy-or-fat-cat)**.**

**Exercise Caution When Shoveling  
Shoveling is a necessity, but it’s also an easy way to throw out your back and even induce a heart attack. Remember to take constant breaks and**[**stay hydrated**](http://www.thedailymeal.com/drink/smart-strategies-staying-hydrated-winter)**; it’s a workout after all.**

**Layer Up  
Wearing three to four layers of clothing is the most effective way to insulate your body. Packing on some light-weight jackets or vests underneath a winter coat and wind breaker will allow you to tolerate the winter chill. Runner’s tights and earmuffs are also useful for making sure no part of you is exposed.**

**Never Use a Generator Indoors  
If you have an alternative power source such as a generator, make sure not to use it inside, even if it’s located in a basement, garage, or crawlspace. The fumes it creates contain carbon monoxide, which can be especially dangerous to children, the elderly, and pets.**

**Prepare a Blizzard Survival Kit  
Stock a bag with all the essentials that can help you outlast a long power outage. Batteries, flashlights, a battery-operated radio, bottled water,**[**canned goods**](http://www.thedailymeal.com/cook/popular-canned-food-19-countries)**, any medications you take, and lots of toilet paper are some of the essentials, but cater your survival kit to your own personal needs.**

**-Stay Inside  
Staying off the roads and remaining indoors is the best way to avoid winter hazards, and the perfect chance to**[**whip up some soup**](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.thedailymeal.com/cook/15-quick-soup-recipes-keep-you-warm-during-blizzard&sa=U&ved=0ahUKEwiZrfCSi9rZAhVjx1kKHfsHAXoQFggIMAE&client=internal-uds-cse&cx=015999648818574760171:kzffxu1zsna&usg=AOvVaw2iuu_V-7qch0oEauIVWoW7)**, but once the wind and the snow taper off, don’t be afraid to step outside and**[**enjoy the snow**](http://www.thedailymeal.com/cook/9-easy-snow-cone-recipes-will-make-you-forget-about-ice-cream)**.**

**-Use Flashlights Not Candles   
During a power outage,**[**avoid using candles**](http://www.thedailymeal.com/8-bizarre-food-scented-candles)**if possible. Flash lights are a much safer alternative, especially in a household with children and/or pets.**

**Watch for Frostbite and Hypothermia   
Symptoms for hypothermia include dizziness, exhaustion, and severe shivering. Symptoms for frostbite include numbness; flushed gray, white, blue, or yellow skin discoloration; or waxy-feeling skin. If you think you’re afflicted with either, call 911.**

**Hailstorms**

**Hailstorms are precipitation in the form of ice, with the ice not melting before it hits the ground. Hailstones usually measure between 0.2 inch (5 millimetres) and 6 inches (15 centimetres) in diameter. A particularly damaging hailstorm hit**[**Munich**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Munich)**, Germany, on July 12, 1984, causing about $2 billion in**[**insurance**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Insurance)**claims.**

**HOW TO PREVENT HAIL DAMAGE AND STAY SAFe**

**Hail is a common occurrence during severe thunderstorms, and while it often doesn’t last long, it can pack a real punch.**

**. Hail can dent vehicles, shatter windows and destroy roofs, which can lead to water damage in your home.**

**You can minimize hail damage with these helpful tips.**

**Before**

* **Clear eavestroughs of debris to minimize ice dams or water damage.**
* **Inspect your roof for damage and repair any problem areas.**
* **Remove weak branches or trees in close proximity to your home.**
* **Store patio furniture and outdoor accessories in an enclosed space.**
* **Move vehicles into a garage or use a**[**hail protector**](https://www.hailprotector.com/)**cover to avoid costly repairs.**

**Are you renovating your home? Do you live in an area that’s prone to hail? Consider choosing impact-resistant shingles and exterior coverings that are rated to withstand hail. You can also install permanent or temporary storm shutter systems to protect windows and other glass surfaces, such as skylights and sliding doors.**

**During**

* **Avoid finding shelter under trees or in areas like culverts that can suddenly fill with water.**
* **Stay indoors and away from windows, glass doors and skylights.**
* **Close drapes or blinds to protect yourself from broken glass and flying debris.**
* **Keep pets indoors and provide shelter for farm animals.**

**If you’re driving…**

* **Pull into a gas station or other covered structure.**
* **Pull over and angle your vehicle so that hail hits the reinforced windshield rather than side and back windows.**
* **Avoid flooded roads.**

**After**

* **If there’s a power outage, turn off electronics and appliances to avoid damage from a power surge.**
* **Use a flashlight instead of candles, which can be a fire hazard.**
* **Turn off valves, if you detect any gas leaks.**
* **Clean up debris and make any temporary repairs.**

**If your property is impacted by a hail storm…**

* **Document the damage as soon as possible.**
* **Take photos or make a video.**
* **Keep records for clean-up costs complete and available to help simplify your insurance claims experience.**

**Ice storms**

**An**[**ice storm**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ice_storm)**is a type of winter storm characterized by freezing rain. The U.S. National Weather Service defines an ice storm as a storm which results in the accumulation of at least 0.25 inch (6.4 mm) of ice on exposed surfaces.**

**Cold wavE**

**A cold wave (known in some regions as a cold snap or cold spell) is a weather phenomenon that is distinguished by a cooling of the air. Specifically, as used by the U.S. National Weather Service, a cold wave is a rapid fall in temperature within a 24-hour period requiring substantially increased protection to agriculture, industry, commerce, and social activities. The precise criterion for a cold wave is determined by the rate at which the temperature falls, and the minimum to which it falls. This minimum temperature is dependent on the geographical region and time of year.**

**Heat waves**

**A heat wave is a period of unusually and excessively hot weather. The worst heat wave in recent history was the**[**European Heat Wave of 2003**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Heat_Wave_of_2003)**. A summer heat wave in Victoria, Australia, created conditions which fuelled the massive**[**bushfires**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2009_Victorian_bushfires)**in 2009.**[**Melbourne**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melbourne)**experienced three days in a row of temperatures exceeding 40 °C (104 °F) with some regional areas sweltering through much higher temperatures. The bushfires, collectively known as "Black Saturday", were partly the act of arsonists. The**[**2010 Northern Hemisphere summer**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_Northern_Hemisphere_summer)**resulted in severe heat waves, which killed over 2,000 people. It resulted in hundreds of wildfires which caused widespread air pollution, and burned thousands of square miles of forest.**

**Droughts**

**Drought is the unusual dryness of soil caused by levels of rainfall significantly below average over a prolonged period. Hot dry winds, shortage of water, high temperatures and consequent evaporation of moisture from the ground can also contribute to conditions of drought. Droughts result in crop failure and shortages of water.**

**Well-known historical**[**droughts**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drought)**include the 1997–2009**[**Millennium Drought**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2000s_Australian_drought)**in Australia led to a water supply crisis across much of the country. As a result, many desalination plants were built for the first time (**[**see list**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_desalination_plants_in_Australia)**). In 2011, the State of**[**Texas**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texas)**lived under a drought emergency declaration for the entire calendar year and severe economic losses.**[**[13]**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_disaster#cite_note-13)**The drought caused the**[**Bastrop**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bastrop_County,_Texas)**fires.**

**Thunder Severe storms, dust clouds, and volcanic eruptions can generate**[**lightning**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lightning)**. Apart from the damage typically associated with storms, such as winds, hail, and flooding, the lightning itself can damage buildings, ignite fires and kill by direct contact. Especially deadly lightning incidents include a 2007 strike in Ushari Dara, a remote mountain village in northwestern**[**Pakistan**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan)**, that killed 30 people,**[**[14]**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_disaster#cite_note-14)**the crash of**[**LANSA Flight 508**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LANSA_Flight_508)**which killed 91 people, and a fuel explosion in Dronka,**[**Egypt**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egypt)**caused by lightning in 1994 which killed 469.**[**[15]**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_disaster#cite_note-15)**Most lightning deaths occur in the poor countries of America and Asia, where lightning is common and**[**adobe**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adobe)[**mud brick**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mud_brick)**housing provides little protection.**[**[16]**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_disaster#cite_note-16)

**storms**