

DISASTERS AROUND THE WORLD , CREATED AND NATURAL DISASTERS BEWARE !



Some people don't like change, but you need to embrace change if the alternative is disaster. Elon Musk



THE 2017 ATLANTIC HURRICANE

The traumatic and lasting effects of natural disasters were felt far and wide this past year. In the United States, the 2017 Atlantic hurricane season will be remembered as the seventh-most intense on record, California suffered through one of its worst wildfire seasons in history and the tornado season got off to a particularly active start. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), there have been 15 natural disasters which have caused over \$1 billion in damage in the U.S. through September, a number that will likely be higher by the end of the year after additional analysis is concluded. Globally, floods, wildfires, typhoons and earthquakes also wreaked havoc. Here are 15 photos that capture the fury and magnitude of some of the worst natural disasters around the world in 2017.



Persistent storms end California drought, unleash damaging flooding and mudslides (Photo/California Department of Water Resources) A stormy winter finally brought California's five-year drought to an end. However, the storms also triggered frequent flooding and damaging mudslides throughout the state. Severe flooding in the state from Feb. 8-22 is listed as one of the \$15 billion weather and climate disasters to occur in the U.S. in 2017. The storms also nearly caused a major disaster to unfold at the Oroville Dam. The persistent heavy rain had forced water levels to begin overflowing onto the damaged emergency spillway, which had suffered serious erosion. Due to an "imminent failure" of the dam's emergency spillway, over 200,000 people around Oroville and the surrounding areas were forced to evacuate.



Major late-season snowstorm unfolds across northeastern US People walk beneath snow-covered trees on the Commonwealth Avenue Mall during a winter storm Tuesday, March 14, 2017, in the Back Bay neighborhood of Boston. (AP Photo/Michael Dwyer) A major storm unleashed heavy snow, blizzard conditions and coastal flooding across portions of the Northeast in mid-March. Over 6,000 flights were canceled over the course of the multi-day storm and several fatalities were reported. Several snowfall records were also set. In Binghamton, New York, a 24-hour snowfall total of 31 inches broke the old record of 23 from February 1961.



Rapid rainfall spawns deadly mudslides in Colombia Boulders and debris surround homes damaged when rivers surrounding Mocoa overflowed and sent a wall of water and debris surging through the city over the weekend, in Mocoa, Colombia, Tuesday, April 4, 2017. (AP Photo/Fernando Vergara) Over 300 were killed in the town of Mocoa, Colombia, in early April when heavy rain caused rivers to overflow their banks and spawn major mudslides.



Historic river flooding inundates central US Severe flooding inundated Pocahontas, Arkansas. (Photo/Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson) Spring flooding overwhelmed several towns in Arkansas and Missouri in late April and early May. Widespread damage to homes, businesses, infrastructure and agriculture was reported. Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson declared a state of emergency and said it was the most extensive flooding in an urban area that he'd ever seen. The flooding came after days of heavy rain caused record crests of numerous rivers in the central United States.



Sierra Leone landslide kills hundreds Rescue workers gather at the summit of a mudslide in Regent, east of Freetown, Sierra Leone, Monday, Aug. 14, 2017. (AP Photo/ Manika Kamara) Heavy rounds of rain caused devastating flooding and landslides in the Sierra Leone capital of Freetown in August. The heavy rain triggered a partial collapse of Sugar Loaf Mountain, which buried homes and claimed hundreds of lives. In addition, thousands were left homeless and without electricity.

Even with all our technology and the inventions that make modern life so much easier than it once was, it takes just one big natural disaster to wipe all that away and remind us that, here on Earth, we're still at the mercy of nature. Neil deGrasse Tyson



Heavy rains brings severe flooding to India, southern Asia Commuters make their way through a waterlogged street following heavy rains in Mumbai, India, Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2017. Heavy rains brought Mumbai to a halt flooding vast areas of the city. (AP Photo/Rajanish Kakade) Severe flooding impacted millions and killed more than 1,200 across southern Asia during the monsoon season from June through mid-September.



Hurricane Harvey batters southeastern Texas In this Sept. 1, 2017, file photo, homes are surrounded by flood water in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey near Galveston, Texas. (AP Photo/Charlie Riedel, File) Harvey was the first major hurricane to make landfall in the United States since Wilma in October 2005 when it made landfall in southeast Texas on Aug. 25. Over 30,000 people were displaced and more than 200,000 homes and businesses were destroyed. Nearly 7 million people received over 30 inches of rain, while 11,000 had over 50 inches. The storm set a new record for most rainfall produced in the continental U.S. by a tropical cyclone when it delivered 60.58 inches to Nederland, Texas.



Hurricane Irma slams the Caribbean This photo provided by the Royal Navy and taken on Sunday, Sept. 24, 2017 shows the devastation left by Hurricane Irma in Great Harbour, British Virgin Islands. (Dan Lauder/Royal Navy via AP) Prior to slamming the U.S., Irma brought severe damage to the Caribbean. The storm ruined the island of Barbuda and left it 'barely habitable' as many of the island's residents were forced to leave. Images taken by NASA reveal the dramatically different landscape of the British and U.S. Virgin Islands after Irma made a direct hit on several of the islands.



Hurricane Irma wallops Florida Debris surrounds a destroyed structure in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma, Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2017, in Big Pine Key, Fla. (AP Photo/Alan Diaz) Right on the heels of Harvey was Irma, which pummeled Florida in early September as a Category 4 storm and left millions without power. In the Florida Keys, where the storm's first U.S. landfall occurred, 25 percent of the homes were destroyed while 65 percent suffered significant damage. The storm lashed the Florida coast and even caused water to recede in several bays and beachfronts. The storm's fury was felt across the state as record storm surge flooding was observed in Jacksonville.



Major earthquakes rock Mexico Rescue workers search for people trapped inside a collapsed building in the Roma Norte neighborhood of Mexico City, Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2017. (AP Photo/Rebecca Blackwell) Mexico suffered damage and fatalities from two powerful earthquakes in a month's time. On Sept. 8, a magnitude 8.2 earthquake struck off the coast of southern Mexico. It was the biggest earthquake to hit the country over a century and nearly 100 fatalities were reported. Several weeks later, on Sept. 19, a magnitude 7.1 quake rattled central Mexico and major damage occurred in Mexico City. Over 360 were killed while several thousand were injured



Hurricane Maria wipes out homes in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands This is a aerial view of St. Croix from Air Force 2, as Vice President Mike Pence, joined by his wife Karen Pence and Virgin Islands Del. Stacey Plaskett, D-At Large, fly in to Henry E. Rohlsen Airport in Frederiksted, U.S. Virgin Islands, Friday, Oct. 6, 2017. (AP Photo/Ken Thomas) Before taking aim at Puerto Rico, Hurricane Maria slammed the British and U.S. Virgin Islands just weeks after Irma had barreled through. Maria also devastated the island of Dominica, becoming the first Category 5 storm on record to make landfall on the tiny island.



Maria devastates Puerto Rico In this Oct. 5, 2017 photo, a Puerto Rican national flag is mounted on debris of a damaged home in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria in the seaside slum La Perla, San Juan, Puerto Rico. (AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa) The humanitarian crisis in Puerto Rico is still ongoing, months after Maria made landfall as a monstrous Category 4 hurricane. The storm unleashed widespread heavy rain, with some totals reaching as high as 37 inches. The rain caused major flooding and mudslides. In the wake of the storm, the island's transportation, infrastructure, energy and communication were devastated. Death toll estimates have varied since the storm hit in mid-September. The official death toll is over 60; however, Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Roselló has ordered that every death be reviewed as some reports state that more than 1,000 were killed.



Wildfires ravage California wine country Flames rise from the remains of a house that burned down in Santa Rosa, Calif., Monday, Oct. 9, 2017. (AP Photo/Jeff Chiu)



Massive earthquake strikes Iraq-Iran border Survivors sit in front of buildings damaged by an earthquake, in Sarpol-e-Zahab, western Iran, Monday, Nov. 13, 2017. (AP Photo/Omid Salehi) Over 500 were killed when a magnitude 7.3 earthquake rattled Iraq and Iran on Nov.



Thomas Fire becomes largest wildfire in California history The Thomas Fire burns through Los Padres National Forest near Ojai, Calif., on Friday, Dec. 8, 2017. (AP Photo/Noah Berger)

