

Natural disasters in Europe

A very detailed overview of all kind of natural disasters in Europe since the 17th century can be found through this Wikipedia link:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Natural_disasters_in_Europe

It has 11 subcategories like earthquakes, floods, cold waves, droughts, weather events etc. Natural disasters in Europe by country is another category and there is a list of tsunamis as well.

Disasters in Europe: more frequent and causing more damage

The number and impacts of **disasters have increased in Europe** in the period 1998-2009, a new report by the European Environment Agency (EEA) concludes. The report assesses the frequency of disasters and their impacts on humans, the economy and ecosystems and calls for better integrated risk disaster management across Europe.

The Agency's new report addresses **three different types of hazards**:

1. hydrometeorological or weather related (storms, extreme temperature events, forest fires, droughts, floods),
2. geophysical (snow avalanches, landslides, earthquakes, volcanoes) and
3. technological (oil spills, industrial accidents, toxic

spills from mining activities).

Some key facts and findings

- In the period covered by the report, disasters caused nearly 100 000 fatalities, affected more than 11 million people and led to economic losses of about EUR 150 billion.
- Extreme temperature events caused the highest number of human fatalities. In total, more than 70 000 excess deaths were reported in Europe during the hot summer of 2003.
- Flooding and storms were the most costly hazards. The overall losses recorded in the study period added up to about EUR 52 billion for floods and EUR 22 billion for storms.
- The number and impacts of geophysical hazards appeared relatively stable during the period covered. Earthquakes caused most harm with almost 19 000 recorded fatalities and overall losses of about EUR 29 billion.

Source: The European Environment Agency

International Disaster Database

<https://www.emdat.be/>

In 1988, the **Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED)** launched the Emergency Events Database (EM-DAT). EM-DAT was created with the initial support of the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** and the **Belgian Government**.

The main objective of the database is to serve the purposes of **humanitarian action at national and international levels**. The initiative aims to rationalise decision making for **disaster preparedness**, as well as provide an objective base for **vulnerability assessment and priority setting**.

EM-DAT contains **essential core data** on the occurrence and effects of over **22,000 mass disasters** in the world from **1900 to the present day**. The database is compiled from various sources, including UN agencies, non-governmental organisations, insurance companies, research institutes and press agencies.

Natural Disasters Overview

<https://www.munichre.com/topics-online/en/climate-change-and-natural-disasters/natural-disasters.html>