

# Natural disasters



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# EARTHQUAKES

## What Is An Earthquake?

Earthquakes are natural disasters that appear on fault lines. They cause telephone wires, trees and whole buildings to fall over. If you are caught in an earthquake then the ground below you will shake and objects may brake.

## How Do Earthquakes Occur?

Earthquakes occur on fault lines. Fault lines are where two tectonic plates meet. Tectonic plates are very slowly moving but they sometimes bang into each other. This is what causes earthquakes.

## Different Types Of Earthquakes

There are several ways that tectonic plates can hit each other. The first is when two tectonic plates are parallel and they smash into each other. They can also rub against each other and draw apart. If the earthquake is under water then it can turn into a hydrothermal vent.







# VOLCANOES

## What Is A Volcano?

A volcano is a natural disaster where molten rock bursts out of the mountainside. There may be ash clouds which travel at high speeds and are impossible to outrun but you can also get volcanoes of slow moving lava called effusive volcanoes which you can get away from at a jogging speed.

## Different Types Of Volcanoes

There are three types of volcanoes. One is a dormant, active and extinct. An active volcano is a volcano that erupts frequently. A dormant volcano is a volcano that erupts every few years but not that often. An extinct volcano no longer erupts. Some of the hills and mountains that we know today are extinct volcanoes where the crater has been closed over.

## How Do Volcanoes Occur?

Sometimes there is too much magma from the Earth's core. Pressure builds up under the plates and forces them apart. When the pressure is very strong the plates give way and lava comes spilling out. A volcano can erupt more than once, but once the lava has moved to a different area it is either extinct or dormant, depending on how far the lava has gone.



# TSUNAMI

## What Is A Tsunami?

A tsunami is a natural disaster caused by earthquakes. Tsunamis are huge waves that come in from the sea and flood places. If you are caught in an earthquake you should travel to higher ground, a long way above sea level. You should do this because it will prevent the tsunami from washing you away.

## How Does A Tsunami Occur?

If an earthquake occurs near the sea, then the sea bed will begin to shake. This will cause lots of waves. Below the waves the water will go round and round in circles until it forms a huge wave.

## How To Escape A Tsunami?

A tsunami will flood any thing nearby below sea level so you will need to travel to a place above sea level. A nearby hill or mountain will be safe. Make sure that there are no telephone wires that have been knocked over though or you may get electrocuted by water or the nearby rocks.

