

The Worst Natural Disasters by Death Toll

Contributed by Administrator
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List of natural disasters by death toll
 violence, accident, natural disaster, extreme weather, or disease.

A death toll is the number of dead as a result of war,

Below is a list of death tolls for various infamous natural disasters. Most numbers are estimates and are often in dispute. The incidents are ranked by the highest estimate given.

Some events overlap categories.

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Ten deadliest natural disasters

Rank	Event	Location	Date	Death Toll (Estimate)
1.	1931 Yellow River flood	Yellow River, China	September-October 1887	850,000-4,000,000
2.	1887 Yellow River flood	Yellow River, China	September-October 1887	900,000-2,000,000
3.	1970 Bhola cyclone	Ganges Delta, East Pakistan	November 13, 1970	500,000-1,000,000
4.	1201 Earthquake	Eastern Mediterranean	1201	1,000,000
5.	1938 Yellow River flood	Yellow River, China	June 9th, 1938	500,000 - 900,000
6.	Shaanxi Earthquake	Shaanxi Province, China	January 23, 1556	830,000
7.	2004 Indian Ocean earthquake/tsunami	Indian Ocean	December 26, 2004	225,000-275,000
8.	1881 Haiphong Cyclone	Haiphong, Vietnam	1881	300,000
9.	1642 Kaifeng Flood	Kaifeng, Henan Province, China	1642	300,000
10.	Tangshan Earthquake	Tangshan, China	July 28, 1976	242,000*

* Official Government figure. Estimated death toll as high as 655,000.

Earthquakes

Death Toll Event Location Date

830,000	Shaanxi earthquake	China	1556	287,000	Indian Ocean earthquake & tsunamis	outside Indonesia	
2004	255,000	Tangshan earthquake	China	1976	230,000	Aleppo earthquake	Syria 1138
200,000	Gansu earthquake	China	1920	200,000	Xining earthquake	China	1927 200,000 Damghan earthquake
1923	110,000	Ashgabat earthquake	Turkmenistan	1948	140,000	Great Kantō earthquake	Japan 1908
100,000	1755	Lisbon earthquake	Portugal	1755	100,000	Chihli earthquake	China 1290 87,000+ (still rising)
77,000	Tabriz earthquake	Iran	1727	70,000	Gansu earthquake	China	1932 66,000 Ancash earthquake
1935	50,000	Calabria earthquake	Italy	1783	50,000	Iran earthquake	Iran 1990
31,000	41,000	Bam earthquake	Iran	2003	32,700	Erzincan earthquake	Turkey 1939 25,000 Spitak Earthquake
1999	15,621	Tonghai earthquake	China	1970	11,000	Naples earthquake	Italy 1857 10,700 Bihar earthquake
1993	9,500	Michoacán earthquake	Mexico	1985	6,433	Great Hanshin earthquake	Kobe, Japan 1995
6,234	May 2006	Java earthquake	Yogyakarta, Indonesia	2006	3,276	Hsinchu-Taichung earthquake	Taiwan 1935 3,000
1999	2,914	Irpinia	Italy	1980	1,570	Romania earthquake	Romania 1977 1,100 Skopje earthquake
1976	1,084	Luzon earthquake	Philippines	1990	571	Morocco earthquake	Al Hoceima Province 2004
Alaska	1964	115	Long Beach earthquake of 1933	California	1933	66	Loma Prieta earthquake
California	1989	65+	Sylmar earthquake	California	1971	57	Northridge earthquake
27	1872	Lone Pine earthquake	California	1872	13	Newcastle earthquake	Australia 1989

Notes

A severe earthquake occurred on 5 July 1201 in the area of the eastern Mediterranean - (Upper Egypt, Syria). Every major city in the Near East was disrupted, and contemporary estimates put the total number killed at 1,100,000.

References

- USGS

Volcanic Eruptions

Death Toll Event Location

Date	92,000	Mount Tabora (see also Year Without a Summer)	Indonesia	1815	36,000	Krakatoa
Indonesia	1883	29,000	Mount Pelée	Martinique	1902	23,000
18,000	Mount Vesuvius	Italy	1631	15,000	Mount Unzen	Japan
9,350	Laki	Iceland	1783	6,000	Santa Maria	Guatemala
4,000	Galunggung	Indonesia	1822	3,600	Mount Vesuvius	Roman Empire
1982	1,680	Soufrière	St. Vincent	West Indies	1902	1,000
1953	57	Mount St. Helens	Washington	1980	152	Mt Ruapehu, Tangiwai
						New Zealand

Notes

A supervolcano that erupted at Lake Toba around 74,000 years ago is thought to have reduced the global human population to less than 10 thousand, which isn't much, as the global population was at most around a million at the time; see Toba catastrophe theory. This eruption is not listed because it occurred before recorded history. Also, the Thera eruption in the Aegean Sea between 1550 and 1650 B.C. may have caused a large number of deaths throughout the region, from Crete to Egypt.

References

- Volcanoworld.org
- Global Volcanism Program
- USGS

Tsunamis

	Death Toll	Event	Location	Date
228,000–310,000	Indian Ocean earthquake with tsunami	Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Somalia, Myanmar, and other countries	2004	100,000
1755	70,000	Lisbon earthquake, tsunami, earthquake and fire	Portugal and Morocco	1755
1782	36,000	Messina Italy earthquake and tsunami	Italy	1908
1707	27,000	Krakatoa volcano explosion	Indonesia	1883
1826	25,674	TMkaidM-NankaidM	Japan	1896
1792	13,486	Sanriku	Japan	1896
1703	5,000	caused by Mount Unzen, Southwest Kykshk	Japan	1771
1952	3,000	Rykkyk Trench	Japan	1976
1998	3,008	TMkaidM-Kashima	Japan	1933
1960	2,000	Borneo	Indonesia	1979
1960	2,000	Sanriku	Japan	1933
1960	2,000	Great Chilean Earthquake	deaths in Chile, U.S. (Hawaii), Philippines and Japan	1960
1607	540	possible tsunami	United Kingdom	1607
2006	165	Bristol Channel,		
2006	165	Java earthquake	2006	165
1946	122	Aleutian Island earthquake	deaths in Hawaii and Alaska, U.S.	1946
1868	27 or 51	Good Friday Earthquake	Alaska and Hawaii, U.S.	1964
1929	23	Southeast coast of Big Island of Hawaii	1868	27 or 51
1929	23	Placentia Bay	Newfoundland	1929
1979		Nice	France	1979

Limnic Eruptions

Date	Death Toll	Event	Location
1,800	37	Lake Nyos	Cameroon
1986	37	Lake Monoun	Cameroon
1984			

Extreme Weather

Heatwaves

	Death Toll	Event	Location	Date
35,000	1,250 - 10,000	European Heat Wave of 2003	Europe	2003
1980	739	United States heat wave	United States	1980
1995	437	Chicago Heat Wave of 1995	Chicago	1995
1895-1896	271	heat waves in	Southern regions, Australia	1895-1896
1999		heat waves in	Midwest and Northeast	1999

Hail

	Death Toll	Event	Location	Date
'several hundred'	246	Roopkund, Uttaranchal	India	eighth century
25		Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh	India	1888
2002		Henan Province	China	2002

Smog

	Death Toll	Event	Location	Date
4,000		Great Smog of 1952	United Kingdom	1952

Storms

	Death Toll	Event	Location	Date
15,000	669 (and 695 missing)	torrential rains and mudslides	Venezuela	1999
2004	250+	heavy storms ("Winnie")	Philippines	2004
1913		Great Lakes Storm of 1913	Great Lakes basin region	1913

Lightning Strikes				Death Toll	Event	Location
Date	81	lightning struck Boeing 707 airliner	near Elkton, Maryland	1963		

Tornadoes				Death Toll	Event	Location	Date
1,300	The Sauria-Manikganj Sadar Tornado	Manikganj, Bangladesh	1989	695	The Tri-State Tornado	MO-IL-IN, USA	1925
500	The Narail-Magura Tornadoes	Jessore, Bangladesh	1964	317	The Great Natchez Tornado	LA-MS, USA	1840
255	The St. Louis-East St. Louis Tornado	MO-IL, USA	1896	233	The Tupelo Tornado	MS, USA	1936
203	The Gainesville Tornado	GA, USA	1936	181	The Glazier-Higgins-Woodward Tornadoes	TX-OK-KS, USA	1947
160	The Chakislampur-Goborghata Tornado	West Bengal-Orissa, India	1978	143	The Amite-Pine-Purvis Tornadoes	LA-MS, USA	1908
139	The Assam Tornado	Assam, India	1963	118	The Dhaka Tornado	Dhaka, Bangladesh	1888
117	The New Richmond Tornado	WI, USA	1899	115	The Flint Tornado	MI, USA	1953
114	The Waco Tornado	TX, USA	1953	114	The Goliad Tornado	TX, USA	1902
94	The Worcester Tornado	MA, USA	1953	54	The San Justo Tornado	Buenos Aires Province, Argentina	1973

Cyclones, Hurricanes and Typhoons				Death Toll
500,000	Bhola cyclone	Bangladesh	1970	300,000
India cyclone	1839	300,000	cyclone Haiphong	Vietnam 1881
229,000	Super Typhoon Nina - contributed to Banqiao Dam failure	China	1975	138,000
1991	Bangladesh cyclone	Chittagong	Bangladesh	1991
60,000	typhoon	China	1922	60,000
1864	Calcutta cyclone	India	1864	50,000
typhoon	China	1912	40,000	cyclone
India	1942	30,000	cyclone	Bangladesh
June 1, 1965	22,000	Great Hurricane of 1780	Barbados, Martinique, St. Eustatius	1780
22,000	cyclone	Pakistan	1963	20,000
cyclone	India	1977	18,277	Hurricane Mitch
Central America	1998	17,000	cyclone	Bangladesh
May 11, 1965	10,000	cyclone	Karachi, Pakistan	1965
10,000	cyclone in Orissa	India	1999	10,000
typhoon	Hong Kong	1906	9,574	cyclone
India	1999	8,000	Galveston Hurricane of 1900	Texas United States
September 8, 1900	8,000	hurricane	Dominican Republic	1930
8,000	Hurricane Fifi	Honduras	1974	7,200
Hurricane Flora	Haiti	Cuba	1963	6,000
Typhoon Thelma	Philippines	1991	6,000	cyclone
Pakistan	1960	5,000	Typhoon Vera	Japan
1958	4,170	Newfoundland Hurricane	U.S., Newfoundland	1775
4,075+	Lake Okeechobee Hurricane	U.S.	1928	4,000
hurricane	Canada	1775	3,433	hurricane
Puerto Rico,	Dominican Republic	1899	3,107	hurricane
Cuba	1932	3,037	Hurricane Jeanne	Haiti
2004	3,000	hurricane	Atlantic Ocean	1782
3,000	hurricane	Cuba	1791	3,000
1737	Calcutta cyclone	India	1737	2,500
cyclone	Andhra Pradesh	1996	2,334	Typhoon Iris
China	1959	2,150	hurricane	Caribbean
1935	2,060	Hurricane David	Dominican Republic, U.S.	1979
2,000-3,000	hurricane	Central America	1934	2,000
hurricane	Gulf of Mexico	1780	2,000	hurricane
Florida	1781	2,000	hurricane	Cuba,
Florida	1870	2,000	Chenier Caminada Hurricane	Louisiana
1893	1,836	not including the 705 missing	Hurricane Katrina	United States
2005	1,620	Hurricane Stan	Mexico, Central America	2005
1,600	Typhoon Mary	China	1960	1,500-2,500
hurricane	Windward Islands	1831	1,500-2,500	hurricane
Central America	1931	1,500	hurricane	Greater Antilles, Mexico
1909	1,300	Typhoon Ike	Philippines	1984
1,200	Hurricane Hazel	Grenada, Bahamas, Haiti, U.S., Canada	1954	1,145
Hurricane Gordon	Haiti, U.S.	1994	1,115	hurricane
Jamaica, Cuba	1780	1,000-2,000	Sea Islands Hurricane	Georgia,
South Carolina	1893	1,000	Hurricane Inez	Greater Antilles, Mexico
1966	1,000	cyclone	India	1998
921	hurricane	Greater Antilles, Mexico	1888	709
hurricane	Cuba	1926	700	hurricane
Georgia	1881	700	hurricane	Greater Antilles
1891	600-700	hurricane	U.S.	1788
682	New England Hurricane of 1938	U.S.	1938	602
Hurricane Georges	Greater Antilles	1998	600	hurricane
Florida, Gulf of Mexico, Texas	1919	600	Hurricane Fox	(Cuba
1952	540-680	Hurricane Janet	(Honduras, Mexico	1955
424	hurricane	North Carolina	1857	408
Labor Day Hurricane	Florida	1935	400	Last Island Hurricane
(Louisiana	1856	400	Cyclone Mahina	Australia
1899	400	Hurricane Hattie	Belize	1961
400	hurricane	Texas	1915	399-550
Hurricane Audrey	Louisiana	1957	390	hurricane
U.S.	1944	387	hurricane	U.S.
1866	383	hurricane	Windward Islands	1898
364	Hurricane Donna	(every U.S. state on east coast	1960	350
hurricane	Louisiana	1909	318	Hurricane Gilbert
Jamaica and Mexico	1988	265-350	Great Miami Hurricane	Florida, Louisiana
1926	256	Hurricane Camille	U.S.	1969
228	Hurricane Allen	Caribbean U.S.	1980	217
Hurricane Cleo	Caribbean and Florida	1964	216	Hurricane Joan
(Colombia, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador	1988	200	Hurricane Hilda	Mexico
1955	200	Hurricane Diane	North Carolina	1955
122	Hurricane Agnes	Eastern United States	1972	120
Hurricane Ivan	Caribbean, Alabama, Florida	2004	113	Hurricane Rita
Florida, Mississippi, Texas	2005	96	Hurricane Diana	Mexico
1990	96	Typhoon Nari	Taiwan	2001
86	Hurricane Hugo	Leeward Islands, Puerto Rico, South Carolina	1989	80
Hurricane Eloise	Hispaniola and Eastern United States	1975	76	Hurricane Betsy
Louisiana	1965	72	Typhoon Toraji	Taiwan
2001	71	Cyclone Tracy	Australia	1974
62	Hurricane Andrew	Bahamas, Florida, Louisiana	1992	60
Hurricane Carol	New England	1954	59	Hurricane Beulah
Texas	1967	59	Hurricane Opal	Guatemala, Mexico, Florida
1995	57	Hurricane Floyd	Bahamas, North Carolina	1999
51	Hurricane Cesar	Nicaragua, Central America, Colombia, Venezuela		

1996	51	Typhoon Herb	Taiwan	1996	45	1939 Long Beach Tropical Storm	California	1939	43
Hurricane Celia		Texas	1970	42	Hurricane Hortense	Leeward Islands	1996	41	Tropical Storm Allison
Texas	2001	40	Hurricane Isabel	North Carolina	2003	38	Hurricane Hilda	Louisiana	1964
Hurricane Charley		Jamaica, Cuba, Florida	2004	34	Hurricane Fran	North Carolina	1996		

References

- CRED EM-DAT
- Forces of Nature: Worst Disasters
- Epic Disasters: Deadliest Hurricanes

Floods and Landslides

Location	Date	1,000,000–3,700,000	1931 Huang He flood	China	1931	900,000–2,000,000	Death Toll	Event
1887 Huang He flood	China	1887	500,000-900,000	1938 Huang He flood	China	1938	231,000	Banqiao Dam failure. Approximately 86,000 people died from flooding and another 145,000 died during subsequent epidemics.
China	1975	145,000	1935 Yangtze river flood	China	1935	100,000	flood	North Vietnam
100,000	1911	Yangtze river flood	China	1911	30,000	1954 Yangtze river flood	China	1954
25,000–?		Grote Mandrenke, storm tide	Netherlands, Germany, Denmark	1362	10,000	Great Iran Flood		
Iran	1954	2,200	Johnstown Flood	Pennsylvania	1889	2,142	North Sea flood of 1953	storm surge (Netherlands, United Kingdom
	1953	2,000–5,000	some reports list as many as 12,000 dead	Manchhu River dam burst	(Morvi, Gujarat, India	1979	1,909	Vajont Dam landslide and flood
	2006	1,605–3,363	spring flooding in Haiti and Dominican Republic	2004	1,000	Mumbai (Bombay) and the surrounding state Maharashtra	India	26th July 2005
400	St. Francis Dam failure	California	1928	315	North Sea flood of 1962	storm tide	Germany	1962
	Great Sheffield flood dam disaster	England	1864	94	Mameyes Disaster	lanslide	Ponce, Puerto Rico	1985
81	Holmfirth Flood - Bilberry Reservoir dam failure	West Yorkshire, England	1852	78	Austin Dam failure		Pennsylvania	1911
	70	New Orleans dike failure	Louisiana	2005	47	McDonald Dam failure	Austin, Texas	1900
16	Brisbane flood	Australia	1974					

Wildfires, Bushfires

Date	418	Hinckley Fire	Minnesota, United States	1894	250+	Thumb Fire	Michigan, United States	1881
160	Miramichi Fire, New Brunswick	Canada	1825	75	Ash Wednesday[1]	Southern Australia	1983	
71	Black Friday	Victoria, Australia	1939	62	1967 Tasmanian fires	Tasmania, Australia	1967	60
	Victoria (incl Gippsland & Dandenongs) Bushfire [2]	Victoria, Australia	1926					

References

- Department of Sustainability and Environment
- Emergency Management Australia

And what about the several hundred millions deaths caused by malaria throughout the centuries ???

Blizzards

4,000	Iran	1972	400	Great Blizzard of '88	Northeastern United States	1888	318	1993 North American Storm Complex	Northeastern United States	1993	235	Schoolhouse Blizzard	Great Plains, USA	1888
144	Armistice Day Blizzard	Midwest, USA	1940	54	Blizzard of '78	Northeastern United States	1978	29	Blizzard of 1977	Buffalo, New York, USA	1977			

Contractible Diseases

Location	Date	300,000,000+	Smallpox	20th Century alone	300,000,000+	Bubonic Plague: Black Death	Death Toll	Event
	1300's-1720's;		Plague of Justinian	540-590		Third Pandemic (same disease)	1850's-1950's	
20,000,000 - 100,000,000	Spanish Flu worldwide	1918 - 1919	10,000,000 - 100,000,000	deaths from diseases in Europe (millions) and the Americas (tens of millions) from diseases exchanged between continents after 1492				
25,250,000	AIDS deaths worldwide	1981 - present	10,000,000	Bubonic Plague	China	1892 - 1896		
5,000,000	Antonine Plague	Roman Empire	165 - 180)	4,000,000	Asian Flu pandemic	worldwide	1957	
1,000,000	Hong Kong Flu pandemic	worldwide	1968	130,000	North American smallpox epidemic	1775 - 1782		
60,000	Great Plague of London	London, UK	1666	775	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)			
	Mostly East Asia, few cases in Europe, Canada and United States	2002-2003	677	West Nile Virus outbreak	(North America	1999 - 2004	256	H5N1 strain of Bird Flu (mainly in Asia, few in Africa and Middle East)
	present							

Famine

Please Note: Some of these famines may be partially or

completely caused by humans.

Death Toll	Event	Location	Date
1,000,000–43,000,000	Period of Three Difficult Years (most estimates are between 20 and 30 million)	(China 1958 - 1961) *	24,000,000
5,000,000	Chinese Famine of 1907	China	1936
5,000,000	Holodomor	USSR	1932-1934
5,000,000	Ukraine and Volga Famine	USSR	1921-1922
3,000,000	Chinese Drought	China	1941
3,000,000	Chinese Famine of 1928-1930	China	1928 - 1930
3,000,000	Indian Drought of 1900	India	1900
1,500,000 - 3,000,000	Bengal Famine of 1943	India	1943
1,500,000	Indian Drought of 1965-1967	India	1965 - 1967
1,200,000	North Korean famine	North Korea	1995 - 1998
1,100,000	Irish potato famine	Ireland	1846-1849
1,000,000	Ethopian famine	Ethopia	1984
150,000	Finnish famine of 1866-1868	Finnland	1866-1868
30,000	Dutch famine of 1944	The Netherlands	1944

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