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Disaster Facts

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Disaster Facts

Here are some facts to remember about disasters:

Disasters may be natural (flood, storm, earthquake, etc.), man-made (industrial, accidental or malevolent) or environmental (climate change and drought).

In 2016, more natural disasters struck the United States than any other country except China.ⁱ

The National Weather Service reported that weather-related disasters resulted in more than 450 fatalities in 2016 and resulted in \$18.1 billion worth of property damage.ⁱⁱ

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction estimates that disasters have cost \$1.4 trillion in total damage and affected 1.7 billion people over the past decade.ⁱⁱⁱ

Because of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, more than 2,950 lives were lost.^{iv}

In 2017, the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history occurred when 58 people were killed and more than 500 people were injured in Las Vegas.^v

A 2014 study by the FBI concluded that mass shootings in public places have been on the rise in the 21st century.^{vi}

The total economic damage due to Hurricane Katrina in 2005 exceeded \$108 billion with more than 1,800 lives lost.^{vii}

With the threat of tornados, floods, hurricanes, heat waves, earthquakes and more, Mississippi is vulnerable to disasters.^{viii}

Among its state-regulated 5,697 dams, Mississippi has 363 that are classified as high hazard dams whose failure could result in the loss of human life and 55 that are classified as significant hazard dams. (Source)^{ix}

ⁱ Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters. Em-Dat: The International Disaster Database, Publications. <https://www.emdat.be/publications/>

ⁱⁱ National Weather Service. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. NWS and Partners Publications. https://www.weather.gov/owlie/publication_brochures

ⁱⁱⁱ The Economic and Human Impacts of Disasters, 2005-2014. Infographic. United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UN DRR). <https://www.flickr.com/photos/isdr/16111599814/>

^{iv} September 11 Terror Attacks Fast Facts. CNN Editorial Research. <https://www.cnn.com/2013/07/27/us/september-11-anniversary-fast-facts/index.html>

^v Coroner Releases Causes of Death for All 58 Victims of Las Vegas Shooting. NPR. The Two-Way. 22 December 2017. <https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2017/12/22/572941583/coroner-releases-causes-of-death-for-all-58-victims-of-las-vegas-shooting>

^{vi} A Study of Active Shooter Incidents in the United States Between 2000 and 2013. Federal Bureau of Investigation. U.S. Department of Justice. <https://purl.fdlp.gov/GPO/gpo52293>

^{vii} Tropical Cyclone Report, Hurricane Katrina, 23-30 August 2005. Updated 4 January 2023. National Hurricane Center. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/data/tcr/AL122005_Katrina.pdf

^{viii} Mississippi Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, 2018. Mississippi Emergency Management Agency. <https://www.msema.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/2018-State-CEMP-Basic-Plan.pdf>

^{ix} 2017 Annual Report, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality <https://www.mdeq.ms.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/AnnualReportjan12.pdf>