



CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY  
OF LOUVAIN

CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON THE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF DISASTERS

WHO COLLABORATING CENTRE

PART ONE

A SHORT COMPENDIUM OF BASIC READINGS  
FOR DISASTER EPIDEMIOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT

AND

RECOMMENDED REFERENCES  
(An Annotated Bibliography)

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## PREFACE

What is 'disaster epidemiology' ? or for that matter, what is 'disaster research' ? These are questions posed by almost anybody coming into first contact with the Centre for Research on Disaster Epidemiology (CRED). The questions, in fact are not easy to answer except that mounting damage and massive expenditures generated by catastrophes worldwide, demand action and answers. This small collection is intended for those who wish to get a overall, patchwork idea of what is going on in the field of natural disaster management, especially from public health perspectives. The articles and documents have been selected to provide the reader at least one informative chapter on the main aspects of disaster epidemiology and management.

The first chapter deals with basic principles of epidemiology independent of disasters but considered by the editors as essential readings for those without any epidemiology training. Others include research studies, relief action guidelines, triage and critical care, sanitation and environmental health and other issues of general interest. The chapters are drawn from various sources, the reference of which is provided at the end of the collection.

The selection is not by any means comprehensive and important aspects have been left out, in the interests of brevity. For that reason, an annotated bibliography is included for those who wish to follow up in greater detail a special issue. Furthermore, particular references on other issues or specific searches may be made through the WHO Collaborating Centre for Research on Disaster Epidemiology (CRED). CRED operates an computerized, cross indexed, bibliographic system that can

generate a series of references on narrowly defined topics, documents of which exist in the Centre's collection. Information for requests and

literature searches is available in the "Bibliographic Support" pamphlet of CRED or requests may be made directly by mail to :

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