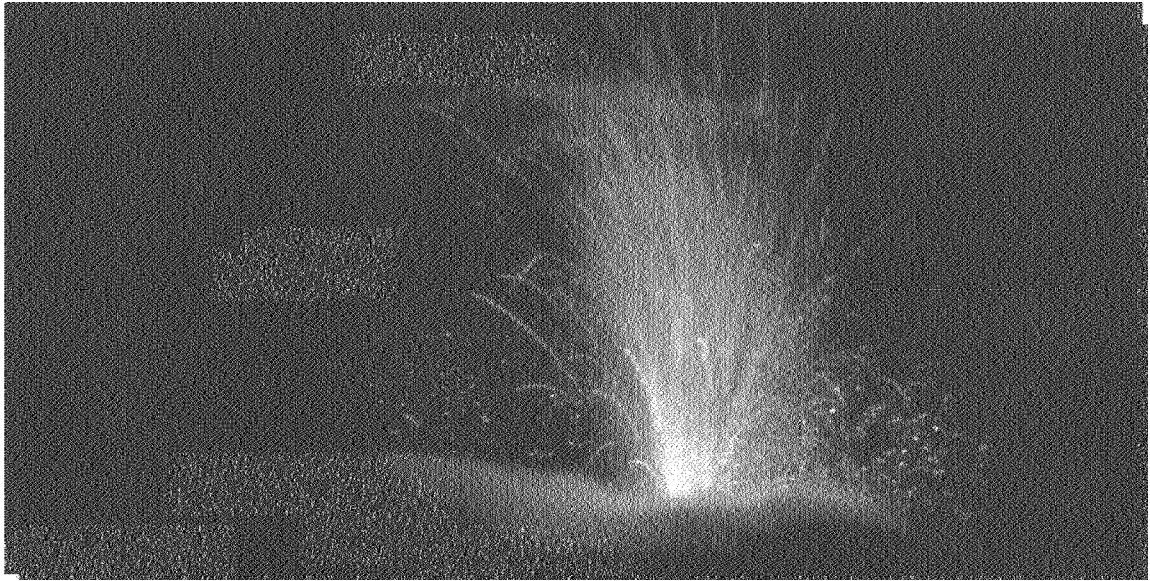


The following fictional accounts of natural and man-made disasters can be used as a basis for discussion about the impact of disasters on communities and emergency response personnel.



Volcanic Eruption

"Despite several drills that were carried out in anticipation of the eruption, no one was prepared for the ferocity of the blast when it finally occurred. Previously dormant Mount Piedre in the center of the tiny Caribbean island of Guanay, which has a population of 20,000 persons, exploded with such fury that the entire island shook and the sky turned eerie red with the glow of molten lava.

"The death toll has so far reached 25 and 9 people remain missing. In the aftermath of the eruption, the majority of the island has been covered with a two-foot cloud of ash, the sky has turned to a foreboding grey as volcanic dust occludes the sun and there are reports of severe respiratory problems among the population. Survivors on the island are now being housed in a 30 square mile area on the eastern coast and the Government is pleading for international assistance. Volcanologists are predicting another major eruption within the next 72 hours."



Hurricane

"Hurricane Lanada, packing winds of up to 160 miles per hour, swept over the hilly Caribbean Island of Toon yesterday leaving a trail of death and destruction. The initial death toll stands at 64 persons, including at least 35 children, but these figures are expected to rise sharply over the next few days as rescue and clean up operations intensify. Rescue teams are working around the clock but their efforts have been severely hampered by on-going floods and mud slides.

"The island's 500-bed General Hospital was totally destroyed. Emergency medical services are being provided at Hopes Private Hospital on the south of the Island which was also severely damaged.

"Officials from international disaster relief agencies arrived on the Island early this morning and they are now sending out an urgent appeal for tents, blankets, canned food and emergency medical supplies."

Hurricane Categories and Wind Speeds:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| (a) Tropical depression: | 35 mph |
| (b) Tropical storm: | 39-73 mph |
| (c) Hurricane 1: | 74-95 mph |
| (d) Hurricane 2: | 96-110 mph |
| (e) Hurricane 3: | 111-130 mph |
| (f) Hurricane 4: | 131-155 mph |
| (g) Hurricane 5: | >155 mph |