

# Topics Geo

## Significant natural catastrophes in 2005

| No. | Date                | Loss event                  | Region  | Fatalities | Overall losses<br>US\$ m | Insured losses<br>US\$ m | Explanations, descriptions   |
|-----|---------------------|-----------------------------|---|------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 1   | Jan–Oct             | Drought, forest fires       | Portugal. Spain   | 58         | 3,650                    |                          | Driest season in 120 years. >4,000 km² forest destroyed.   |
| 2   | 4–26.1              | Bush fires                  | Australia: W, S   | 12         | 40                       | 20                       | High temperatures, drought. 800 km² bush land destroyed.   |
| 3   | 7–9.1               | Winter storm Erwin (Gudrun) | Scandinavia. Baltic States                                      | 18         | 5,800                    | 2,500                    | High wind speeds, heavy rain. Widespread forest damage. Oil production affected. >1.4 million without electricity.   |
| 4   | 8–20.1              | Floods                      | Costa Rica. Panama. Venezuela                                   | 8          | 35                       |                          | Thousands of houses damaged. Bridges and dykes destroyed. Losses to agriculture.   |
| 5   | 1–3.2               | Severe storms               | Australia: S, E   | 2          | 250                      | 190                      | Losses to buildings and infrastructure.  |
| 6   | 7–17.2              | Floods                      | Venezuela. Colombia   | 107        |                          |                          | Torrential rain, landslides. Tens of thousands of houses destroyed.  |
| 7   | 10–27.2             | Snowstorms, floods          | Afghanistan. India. Pakistan                                    | 1,400      |                          |                          | Cold spell, avalanches. Villages flooded, thousands of houses damaged/destroyed. Losses to livestock.  |
| 8   | 17–23.2             | Winter storm                | USA. Mexico   | 9          | 250                      | 150                      | Tornadoes, hail, heavy rain. Houses damaged. Train service suspended.  |
| 9   | 22.2                | Earthquake                  | Iran: C   | 612        | 80                       |                          | M5 6.5. Landslides. Several villages and thousands of houses destroyed.  |
| 10  | 1–24.3              | Floods                      | Pakistan: SW, C   | 86         |                          |                          | Flash floods, landslides. >3,500 made homeless.  |
| 11  | 7–29.3              | Floods                      | Afghanistan: W, C, S  | 115        |                          |                          | Dams breached. >10,000 houses damaged/destroyed.   |
| 12  | 9.3                 | Earthquake                  | South Africa: N   | 2          | 20                       | 10                       | Mb 5.0. Largest earthquake since 1969. Buildings damaged. Losses to property.  |
| 13  | 22–28.3             | Severe storms               | USA: esp. AL  | 1          | 1,000                    | 655                      | Thunderstorms. Houses damaged/destroyed. Dams breached, bridges damaged.   |
| 14  | 28.3                | Earthquake                  | Indonesia   | 1,700      |                          |                          | Mw 8.7. Tsunami. >7,000 buildings damaged/destroyed.   |
| 15  | April–Aug           | Floods                      | Romania   | 67         | 1,600                    | 10                       | Worst floods in 50 years. Over 20,000 houses, 1,000 bridges and 1,600 km of road damaged/destroyed.  |
| 16  | 6–8.4               | Tornadoes                   | USA: esp. AL  |            | 350                      | 190                      | Losses to buildings, infrastructure and agriculture.   |
| 17  | 23.4–24.5           | Floods                      | Ethiopia. Somalia. Kenya  | 180        |                          |                          | Torrential rain. >160 villages flooded.  |
| 18  | 29–30.4             | Flash floods                | Saudi Arabia: W, S  | 41         |                          |                          | Port facilities damaged.   |
| 19  | 16–17.5             | Severe storms, tornadoes    | Australia: W  |            | 25                       | 20                       | Buildings damaged.   |
| 20  | 18–21.5             | Flash floods, landslides    | New Zealand: N, E   |            | 100                      | 75                       | >100 houses destroyed, 800 damaged. Major losses to infrastructure.  |
| 21  | 24–25.5             | Severe storms               | Brazil: E, SE   | 5          | 100                      | 14                       | Flash floods. Thousands of vehicles, hundreds of industrial facilities damaged.  |
| 22  | May–July            | Floods                      | China: entire country   | 600        | 2,000                    |                          | >138,000 houses damaged/destroyed. 2.8 million affected.   |
| 23  | 4–14.6              | Floods                      | Canada: W   | 4          | 350                      | 190                      | Worst flood in 200 years. 40,000 houses damaged.   |
| 24  | 11–21.6             | Severe storms               | China: E, NE  | 20         | 145                      |                          | Torrential rain. 200,000 houses damaged/destroyed.   |
| 25  | 13.6                | Earthquake                  | Chile. Peru   | 12         |                          |                          | Mw 7.8. Hundreds of houses destroyed, thousands damaged.   |
| 26  | 6–7.7               | Hurricane Cindy             | USA. Mexico   | 3          | 250                      | 160                      | Houses damaged. Oil industry affected. Power outages.  |
| 27  | 7–11.7              | Hurricane Dennis            | Cuba. Haiti. Jamaica. USA                                       | 76         | 3,100                    | 1,200                    | >120,000 houses damaged/destroyed. Power outages. Losses to property.  |
| 28  | 14–18.7             | Hurricane Emily             | Mexico. Grenada. Jamaica  | 13         | 400                      | 250                      | Thousands of houses damaged/destroyed. Oil industry affected.  |
| 29  | 17–20.7             | Typhoon Haitang             | China. Taiwan   | 17         | 1,100                    | 100                      | Tens of thousands of houses damaged/destroyed. 8.5 million affected.   |
| 30  | 24.7–5.8            | Floods                      | India: W  | 1,150      | 5,000                    | 770                      | 25,000 buildings damaged/destroyed. Oil industry affected. Losses to infrastructure and agriculture. 220,000 evacuated.  |
| 31  | 28–30.7             | Severe storms               | Europe: esp. France. Germany. Switzerland                       | 9          | 200                      | 100                      | Tornadoes, hail, torrential rain. >1,000 houses damaged.   |
| 32  | August              | Floods                      | China: NE, C, S, W, NW  | 69         | 290                      |                          | >44,300 houses damaged/destroyed. 188,000 homeless.  |
| 33  | Aug–Oct             | Drought                     | Brazil: S   |            | 1,650                    |                          | Driest season in 60 years. Rivers dried up. Shipping affected. >900 villages cut off. High losses to agriculture/fishery.  |
| 34  | 6–8.8               | Typhoon Matsa               | China. Taiwan. South Korea                                      | 24         | 850                      | 85                       | Heavy rain, landslides. Thousands of houses destroyed, tens of thousands of businesses damaged. Electricity and telecommunication lines cut.   |
| 35  | 19.8                | Tornado                     | Canada: E   |            | 750                      | 500                      | Losses to property and infrastructure.   |
| 36  | 20–27.8             | Floods                      | Switzerland. Austria. Germany                                   | 11         | 3,000                    | 1,700                    | Landslides. Record water levels. Villages flooded. Losses to buildings, infrastructure and agriculture.  |
| 37  | 25–30.8             | Hurricane Katrina           | USA: LA, MS, AL, FL   | 1,322      | 125,000                  | 60,000                   | Storm surge, dams breached. Numerous cities flooded. 80% of New Orleans submerged. Oil industry severely affected. Major losses to infrastructure. Widespread evacuations. Hundreds of thousands made homeless. (Insured losses including National Flood Insurance Programme). |
| 38  | 31.8–3.9            | Typhoon Talim               | China. Taiwan   | 132        | 1,900                    |                          | Hundreds of thousands of houses damaged/destroyed. Major losses to agriculture.  |
| 39  | 6–8.9               | Typhoon Nabi                | Japan. South Korea  | 25         |                          |                          | Floods, landslides. 1,000 houses damaged/destroyed.  |
| 40  | 11–13.9             | Typhoon Khanun              | China: E  | 15         | 960                      |                          | Thousands of buildings destroyed. High losses to agriculture.  |
| 41  | 20–24.9             | Hurricane Rita              | USA: FL, LA, MS, TX   | 10         | 16,000                   | 11,000                   | Several localities devastated, 70% of the oil and gas production shut down. 3 million evacuated.   |
| 42  | 21–30.9             | Typhoon Damrey (Labuyo)     | Philippines. China. Vietnam. Thailand                           | 125        | 1,200                    |                          | Tens of thousands of houses destroyed. 270,000 homeless/evacuated.   |
| 43  | 1–2.10              | Typhoon Longwang            | China. Taiwan   | 67         | 250                      | 50                       | 12,000 buildings damaged/destroyed. Power outages. Widespread evacuations.   |
| 44  | 2–5.10              | Hurricane Stan              | Costa Rica. El Salvador. Guatemala. Honduras. Mexico. Nicaragua | 840        | 3,000                    | 100                      | Torrential rain, mudslides, rivers burst their banks. Villages buried, hundreds of thousands of houses damaged/destroyed. Oil industry affected. Hundreds missing. >520,000 evacuated.   |
| 45  | 8.10                | Earthquake                  | Pakistan. India   | 88,000     | 5,200                    |                          | M5 7.6. 2,000 settlements destroyed. Large areas cut off. 3 million homeless.  |
| 46  | 19–24.10            | Hurricane Wilma             | Mexico. USA. Caribbean  | 42         | 18,000                   | 10,500                   | Major losses to hotel resorts.   |
| 47  | 25–27.11            | Winter storm Thorsten       | Germany: NW, W  |            | 300                      | 150                      | Heavy rain, snowfall, freezing rain. Power outages. Air and road traffic affected.   |
| 48  | 28.11               | Tropical storm Delta        | Spain: Canary Islands. Morocco                                  | 20         | 375                      |                          | Flash floods, landslides. Communication disrupted. Power lines and pylons downed.  |
| 49  | 22–25.12            | Winter storm                | Japan. Republic of Korea  | 13         |                          |                          | Buildings damaged, losses to infrastructure.   |
| 50  | 30.12.2005–3.1.2006 | Winter storm, floods        | USA: CA   | 8          | 200                      | 100                      | Heavy rain, landslides. 600 houses damaged.  |