What is risk?

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In the context of natural disasters, the scientific community agrees that risk is the product of (the probability of) a hazard and its adverse consequences. Where there are no people or values that can be affected by a natural phenomenon, there is no risk. Similarly, an event is only termed a disaster if people are harmed and/or their possessions damaged.
Drivers of risk

Circular graphs are used to describe the dependency of Risk \( R \) on the variables Hazard \( H \), Exposure \( E \) and Vulnerability \( V \), with vulnerability being the damageable exposure. 100% vulnerability means an expected total loss. The risk is represented by the area intersection of \( H \), \( E \) and \( V \).

**NO RISK**  
A strong storm in an uninhabited region (no exposure affected)

**LOW RISK**  
A strong storm in a well-prepared region (low vulnerability)

**HIGH RISK**  
A strong storm in a poorly prepared region (high vulnerability)