

Avalanches

- Avalanches Happen on every continent
- Avalanche Season is during the “winter time” or December-April in the United States
- A large scale can release up to 300,000 cubic yards of snow
- Avalanches are more commonly released by recreationists than by natural causes
- The biggest factor of avalanche possibility is the accumulation snow over the winter season
 - More snow = bigger avalanche



Earthquakes

- Earthquakes are caused by the release of built up pressure caused by the shifting of tectonic plates
- Earthquakes usually occur on fault lines, or areas where tectonic plates meet
- The size of an earthquake is measured using the logarithmic based Richter scale



An aerial view of the San Andreas fault in the Carrizo Plain, Central California

Hurricanes

- A hurricane is a tropical storm with winds over 74mph
- Hurricanes occupy the most intense level of the three levels of tropical storms
- Hurricanes rotate or circulate counter-clockwise in the northern hemisphere
- Hurricanes can only occur over the Atlantic ocean, Caribbean sea, and gulf of Mexico



View of a Hurricane from Space

Landslides

- Landslides are the movement of land down a slope by gravity
- Landslides are mother nature's way of redistributing land
- They can be triggered by rain, floods, and earthquakes as well as man-made factors such as slope grading or mining
- Landslides have the potential to happen anywhere a steep slope is present



Thunder Storms

- Every Thunderstorm produces lightning
- There is wet thunder and dry thunder, the difference being whether or not rain is produced
- Warm humid conditions favor thunderstorms
- Only 10% of thunderstorms are classified as severe
- Your chance of being struck by lightning is 1 in 600,000



Multiple Lightning Strikes and a Supercell Thunderstorm formation

Tornados

- A tornado is defined as a violently rotating column of air extending from a thunderstorm to the ground
- Tornados are found in almost every part of the world
- Tornados are most common in the United States, just east of the Rocky Mountains in an area called Tornado Alley
- Waterspouts are weak tornados over water and can move inland and become tornados



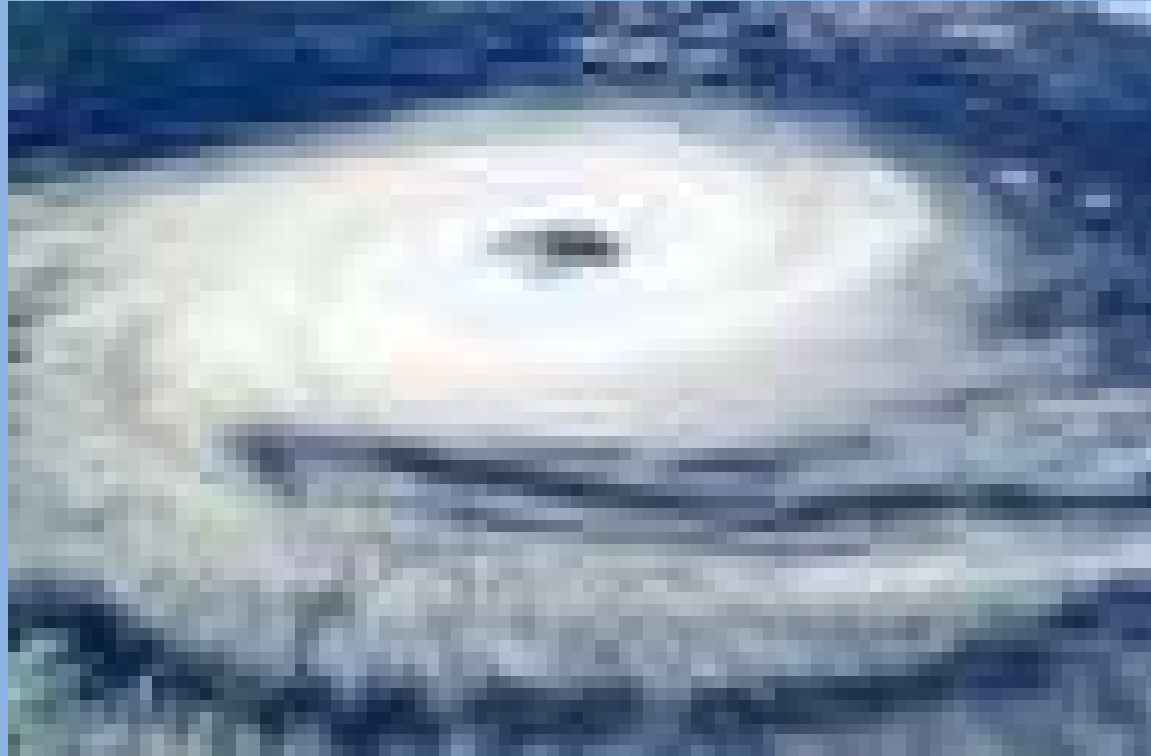
Tsunamis

- On the seafloor, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and even landslides can lead to tsunamis
- Tsunamis can travel over 300mph
- Tsunamis can have an amplitude of up to 32ft
- Hawaii is the most vulnerable place in the world for tsunamis



Volcanoes

- Volcanoes are lava filled mountains that erupt when the pressure becomes too great for them to hold it inside
- The contents that a volcano spews forth is called magma when it's below the surface and lava once it reaches the surface
- Only a fraction of the world's volcanoes are actually on land, the rest are on the ocean floor
- Indonesia has the most volcanoes of all the countries in the world



Cyclone catarina