

Appendix B: Disaster Typology

A Typology of Disasters			
	Causes:		
	Natural	Industrial	Human
Elements:			
Earth:	Avalanches	Dam failures	Ecological irresponsibility
	Earthquakes	Ecological neglect	Road and train accidents
	Erosions	Outer-space debris fallout	
	Eruptions	Radioactive pollution	
	Toxic mineral deposits	Toxic waste disposal	
	Volcanoes		
	Landslides		
Air:	Blizzards	Acid rain	Aircraft accidents
	Cyclones	Chemical pollution	Hijacking
	Dust storms	Explosions above- and below-ground	Spacecraft accidents
	Hurricanes	Radioactive cloud & soot	
	Meteorite and planetary activity	Urban smog	
	Thermal shifts		
	Tornadoes		
Fire:	Lightening	Boiling liquid/expanding vapor accidents	Fire-setting
		Electrical fires	
		Hazardous chemicals	
		Spontaneous combustion	
Water:	Drought	Effluent contamination	Maritime accidents
	Floods	Oil spills	
	Storms	Waste disposal	
	Tsunamis		
People:	Endemic disease	Construction accidents	Civil strife
	Epidemics	Design flaws	Criminal violence
	Famine	Equipment problems	Guerilla warfare/terrorism
	Overpopulation	Illicit drug-making, -taking	Sports crowd violence
	Plague	Plant accidents	Warfare

Disaster classification chart derived from A.J.W. Taylor, Disasters and Disaster Stress, AMS Press, New York, 1989.

