

**Rank It!**

# NATURAL DISASTERS

JIM WESTCOTT



**BLACK  
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# Extreme DESTRUCTION

The sky grows dark. The wind howls. It begins to swirl. Suddenly, the spinning air lifts a car off the ground. It spins the car into a tree.

Natural disasters can happen everywhere. Scientists can tell when some are coming. Other storms strike without warning. They cause incredible damage. See how some of the worst disasters rank.

# The **DISASTERS**

## Earthquake in Haiti January 12, 2010

In 2010, an earthquake shook the country of Haiti. Buildings crumbled. People were buried beneath the **rubble**. More than 1 million people lost their homes. About 4,000 schools were damaged or destroyed. The shaking only lasted 30 seconds.

The quake had a **magnitude** of 7.0. It's one of the strongest to hit Haiti.

## Richter Scale

People use the Richter Scale to measure earthquakes' strengths.

less than **3.9**  
minor

**4.0 to 4.9**  
light

**5.0 to 5.9**  
moderate

**6.0 to 6.9**  
strong

**7.0 to 7.9**  
major

**8.0 and higher**  
great

**RANKED!**

**316,000**  
ESTIMATED DEATHS

**300,000**  
ESTIMATED PEOPLE INJURED

**30 seconds**  
LENGTH OF EVENT

up to **\$14 billion**  
ESTIMATED COST OF DAMAGES



## Indian Ocean Tsunami December 26, 2004

The day after Christmas in 2004, a tsunami struck. It hit countries around the Indian Ocean. An earthquake shook the ocean floor. The shaking caused water to move away from the beaches. It rushed back as huge waves. Some waves were more than 50 feet (15 meters) high. They drowned buildings and cars. The tsunami hit more than 10 countries. Thousands of locals died. Many **tourists** also lost their lives.

**RANK IT!**

**230,000**

ESTIMATED DEATHS

MORE THAN

**125,000**

ESTIMATED PEOPLE INJURED

**1** day

LENGTH OF EVENT

**\$10**  
billion

ESTIMATED  
COST OF  
DAMAGES