

Natural Disaster How-to Paragraph

For this paragraph, you will research and write about how to protect oneself and survive and/or prevent loss from a natural disaster, explaining step by step precautions and/or steps to take during and after the disaster occurs. A natural disaster is defined as a hazard which occurs naturally, that is a disaster that is not brought about by acts of human beings.

Step 1: Choose the kind of natural disaster you want to write about. _____

Step 2: Use the internet to find information. Some Web sites to use:

<http://environment.nationalgeographic.com/environment/natural-disasters/>

<http://library.thinkquest.org/16132/frames.html>

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/>

<http://www.factmonster.com/ipka/A0775896.html>

Write answers the following questions.

1. What is the definition of this type of natural disaster, including causes ?

2. What happens when this hazard occurs (to people, animals, plants, buildings, etc.)?

3. How or why is it dangerous?

4. How many people per year (in the U.S. or in the world) die from this type of natural disaster? Or how many people can it affect and where in the world?

5. When and where was the worst occurrence of this type of natural disaster? How many people died and/or what was the total destruction?

6. What are the steps to take to prevent loss of life and property before this type of disaster happens? Or what are the steps to take to prevent tragedies when at the time this hazard occurs?

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7. Is there any other important information to know about this type of natural disaster?
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Now write complete sentences in paragraph form with...

- A header (your first and last name, class, assignment, and the date)
- A title
- An indented topic sentence (your answers to questions 1 and 2)
- Supporting/detail sentences (your answers to questions 3 – 7)
- Transition words (first, second, next, after that, afterwards, also, in addition, last, finally) to link the steps to take
- A conclusion that answers this question: How or why can people benefit from this information?
- All double spaced

Example:

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How to Survive a Heat Wave

A heat wave happens when there is very hot weather with a maximum shade temperature 90 °F or more for several days to several weeks, but the definition is different in various regions of the world. A heat wave can happen in the summer in warm climates in an area of high pressure with little or no rain or clouds when the air and ground heats to excess. Severe heat waves have caused terrible crop failures, thousands of deaths from people getting too hot, and power outages because of so much use of air conditioning. For people, there can be many bad health effects, including hyperthermia, edema (swelling), heat rash, heat cramps, heat stroke, dehydration, dizziness, and even death. Heat waves are the most dangerous type of weather overall. About 400 people in the U.S. die each year because of the effects of heat. The longest heat wave in the world happened in Australia from Oct. 31, 1923 to April 7, 1924 when the temperature was 100 degrees for 160 days. These are the steps to take when there is a heat wave. First, go outside in the early morning when temperatures are cooler. Next, drink plenty of fluids including water and juice. Also, snack on frozen treats to stay cool. Another important thing to do is eat light meals to keep your body heat down. Finally, keep the air flowing by using fans and put heavy shades on the windows during the day to block the sun out. Now that you know more about the seriousness of the effects of heat waves and what to do when one occurs, you take steps to protect yourself when the weather gets too hot.