

Glossary

Aftershock Shake or tremor that can occur after an earthquake and cause damage

Ash Fine dust from inside a volcano

Casualties People killed, injured, sick, missing or homeless after a disaster

Civil defence System of measures used by the government to protect civilians in times of war, disaster and major emergencies

Cyclone Very strong rotating winds with sustained wind-speed of over 120kph (see hurricane and typhoon)

Disaster Event that causes significant loss or damage, and that overwhelms the capability of the community to handle it

Earthquake Violent movement of part of the earth's crust

Emergency Situation that can cause loss of life or injury and cannot be contained by the emergency services

Emergency management

Range of measures to handle risks before, during and after an emergency or disaster

Evacuate Move out of a dangerous place

Fault line Break in layers of rock, where the earth shifts and moves

Flood Overflow of water

Hazard Source of risk or danger

Hurricane Word for cyclone in the west Atlantic and east Pacific

Lava Flowing, hardened or molten rock from a volcano

Magma Molten rock before it erupts from a volcano

Magnitude Size and strength of an earthquake

Mercalli scale Measure of an earthquake's strength based on effects on people and structures

Natural disaster Disaster caused by nature

Non-natural disaster Disaster caused by human activity

Richter scale Measure of the energy released by an earthquake

Storm Strong winds, rain or snow

Tsunami A series of fast-travelling waves caused by a disturbance in the sea or on the sea-floor

Typhoon Word used for cyclone in the western Pacific

Volcano Mountain with a vent through which lava, gas and debris is forced