

List of environmental disasters

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This page is a **list of environmental disasters**. In this context it is an annotated list of specific events caused by human activity that results in a negative effect on the environment.

Main article: Environmental disaster

See also: List of environmental issues

Environmental disasters by category

This list is incomplete; you can help by expanding it.

Agricultural

- Salinity in Australia
- Salinization of the Fertile Crescent
- The Dust Bowl in Canada and the United States (1934-1939)
- The Great sparrow campaign; sparrows were eliminated from Chinese farms, which caused locusts to swarm the farms and contributed to a famine which killed 38 million people.
- Africanized bees, known colloquially as "killer bees"
- Mismanagement of the Aral Sea
- "Dirty dairying" in New Zealand
- Hedgerow removal in the United Kingdom

Biodiversity

- Chestnut blight
- Extinction of American megafauna
- Extinction of Australian megafauna
- Deforestation of Easter Island
- Destruction of the old growth forests
- Rabbits in Australia
- Red imported fire ants
- Dutch Elm Disease
- Reduction in the number of the American Bison
- Introduction of the Nile perch into Lake Victoria in Africa, decimating indigenous fish species
- The Saemangeum Seawall
- Emerald Ash Borer
- Environmental threats to the Great Barrier Reef
- 2006 Zakouma elephant slaughter
- Invasive species in New Zealand
- The loss of Biodiversity of New Zealand
- Ghost nets
- Grounding of SS Makambo on Lord Howe Island

Contents

- 1 Environmental disasters by category
 - 1.1 Agricultural
 - 1.2 Biodiversity
 - 1.3 Coal
 - 1.4 Human health
 - 1.5 Industrial
 - 1.5.1 Mining
 - 1.5.2 Oil industry
 - 1.6 Nuclear
 - 1.7 Air/land/water
 - 1.7.1 Air
 - 1.7.2 Land
 - 1.7.3 Water
 - 1.7.3.1 Freshwater
 - 1.7.3.2 Marine
- 2 See also
- 3 References
- 4 External links

- Shark finning
- Decline of vultures in India due to Diclofenac leading to increased incidence of rabies

Coal

- Martin County sludge spill
- Tennessee coal sludge spill

Human health

- Introduction of infectious diseases by Europeans causing the death of indigenous people during European colonization of the Americas
- Health effects arising from the September 11 attacks
- Goiânia accident, human deaths resulting from dismantling a scrapped medical machine containing a source of radioactivity

Industrial

- Minamata disease - mercury poisoning in Japan (1950s & 1960s)
- Ontario Minamata disease in Canada
- Itai-itai disease, due to cadmium poisoning in Japan
- Love Canal toxic waste site
- Seveso disaster (1976), chemical plant explosion, caused highest known exposure to 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (TCDD) in residential populations
- Bhopal disaster (December 3, 1984, India), The leak of methyl isocyanate that took place in 1984 resulted in more than 22,000 deaths (and counting) and the various genetic diseases that will continue to be seen for generations to come among the newly born, caused by the negligence and corruption, ignoring safety standards in India by Warren Anderson, CEO of Union Carbide, a US company now a subsidiary of Dow Chemicals.
- Sandoz chemical spill into the Rhine river (1986)
- United States Environmental Protection Agency Superfund sites in the United States
- AZF Explosion at a Toulouse chemical factory (2001)
- 2005 Jilin chemical plant explosions
- The Sydney Tar Ponds and Coke Ovens sites in the city of Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada, known as the largest toxic waste site in North America.
- Release of lead dust into Esperance Harbour.
- Release of cyanide, heavy metals and acid into the Alamosa River, Colorado from the Summitville mine, causing the death of all marine life within a 17 mile radius.
- Release of 20,000 gallons of lethal chemicals (metam sodium, tradename Vapam) into the Upper Sacramento River near Dunsmuir, causing the death of all marine life within a 38 mile radius.
- Release of CFC's resulting in ozone depletion
- Release of sulfur dioxide after a fire at the Al-Mishraq plant in Iraq
- The Phillips Disasters
- Villa Parisi (Brazil)
- Health issues on the Aamjiwnaang First Nation due to chemical factories
- Environmental issues with the Three Gorges Dam
- Kingston Fossil Plant coal fly ash slurry spill

Mining

- Sulfur wastes in Chañaral, Chile
- The Ok Tedi environmental disaster in Papua New Guinea
- Collapse of a colliery waste tip in Aberfan, Wales

- Mining at Cerro de San Pedro in Mexico by Minera San Xavier
- Lead dust from the Magellan Metals mine in Australia
- Failure of a toxic waste dam at the Aznalcollar mine in Spain
- Uranium mining controversy in Kakadu National Park in Australia
- The tailings dam from the now abandoned Tui mine in New Zealand

Oil industry

- Environmental issues in the Niger Delta relating to the oil industry
- Lago Agrio oil field issues
- Arctic Refuge drilling controversy
- Deepwater Horizon oil spill
- Sidoarjo mud flow triggered by Lapindo Brantas gas exploration in 2006; East Java, Indonesia

Nuclear

See also: Nuclear and radiation accidents, List of civilian nuclear accidents, List of military nuclear accidents, and List of civilian radiation accidents

- Chernobyl disaster in 1986 in Chernobyl, Ukraine, "killed at least 4056 people and damaged almost \$7 billion of property".^[1] Radioactive fallout from the accident concentrated near Belarus, Ukraine and Russia and at least 350,000 people were forcibly resettled away from these areas. After the accident, "traces of radioactive deposits unique to Chernobyl were found in nearly every country in the northern hemisphere".^[1]
- Mayak nuclear waste storage tank explosion, (Chelyabinsk, Soviet Union, 29 September 1957), 200+ people died and 270,000 people were exposed to dangerous radiation levels. Over thirty small communities had been removed from Soviet maps between 1958 and 1991.^[2]
- Windscale, United Kingdom, October 8, 1957. 33 deaths as fire ignites plutonium piles and destroys surrounding dairy farms.^[3]
- Soviet submarine K-431 accident, August 10, 1985 (10 people died and 49 suffered radiation injuries).^[4]
- Soviet submarine K-19 accident, July 4, 1961. (8 deaths and more than 30 people were over-exposed to radiation).^[5]
- Nuclear testing at Moruroa and Fangataufa in the Pacific Ocean
- Fallout from the Castle Bravo nuclear test at Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands
- The health of Downwinders



Mushroom-shaped cloud and water column from the underwater nuclear explosion of July 25, 1946, which was part of Operation Crossroads.



November 1951 nuclear test at the Nevada Test Site, from Operation Buster, with a yield of 21 kilotons. It was the first U.S. nuclear field exercise conducted on land; troops shown are 6 mi (9.7 km) from the blast.

Air/land/water

- Proliferation of plastic shopping bags

Air

- The Donora Smog of 1948 in Donora, Pennsylvania in the United States
- The Great Smog of 1952, which killed 4,000 Londoners
- The 1983 Melbourne dust storm
- The 1997 Southeast Asian haze
- The 2005 Malaysian haze
- The 2006 Southeast Asian haze
- Yokkaichi asthma in Japan
- Health problems due to the Jinkanpo Atsugi Incinerator in Japan
- Kuwaiti oil fires

Land

- The Dust Bowl of Canada and the United States
- Contaminated soils in Mapua, New Zealand due to the operation of an agricultural chemicals factory
- Basin F, a disposal site in the United States for contaminated liquid wastes from the chemical manufacturing operations of the Army and its lessee Shell Chemical Company
- 2006 Côte d'Ivoire toxic waste dump

Water

Freshwater

- Selenium poisoning of wildlife due to farm runoff used to create Kesterson National Wildlife Refuge, and the artificial wetland
- The Jiyeh Power Station oil spill in the Mediterranean region
- Effects of polluted water in the Berkeley Pit in the United States
- Ignition and conflagration (13 times from 1868 to 1969) of the Cuyahoga River in Ohio, United States
- Cheakamus River derailment which polluted a river with caustic soda
- Draining and development of the Everglades

Marine

- Coral bleaching
- The artificial Osborne Reef off the coast of Fort Lauderdale, Florida in the United States
- Dumping of conventional and chemical munitions in Beaufort's Dyke, a sea trench between Northern Ireland and Scotland
- Marine debris
- Environmental threats to the Great Barrier Reef
- Nurdles, plastic pellet typically under 5mm in diameter
- Friendly Floatees
- The Great Pacific Garbage Patch
- Minamata disease, mercury poisoning in Japan
- Mercury in fish
- Ocean acidification due to anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions

See also: List of oil spills

See also

- Natural disaster
- Timeline of environmental events

- Index of environmental articles
- Ecophagy, the consuming of an ecosystem
- List of Superfund sites in the United States

References

1. ^{a b} Benjamin K. Sovacool. The costs of failure: A preliminary assessment of major energy accidents, 1907–2007, *Energy Policy* 36 (2008), p. 1806.
2. [^] Samuel Upton Newton. Nuclear War I and Other Major Nuclear Disasters of the 20th Century 2007, pp. 237–240.
3. [^] Benjamin K. Sovacool and Christopher Cooper. Nuclear Nonsense: Why Nuclear Power is no Answer to Climate Change and the World's Post-Kyoto Energy Challenges, *William and Mary Environmental Law and Policy Review*, Vol 33:1, 2008, p. 109.
4. [^] The Worst Nuclear Disasters
5. [^] Strengthening the Safety of Radiation Sources p. 14.

External links

- Environmental disaster videos

Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_environmental_disasters"

Categories: [Environmental disasters](#) | [Disaster lists](#) | [Lists of environmental topics](#)

- This page was last modified on 28 June 2010 at 08:01.
- Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. See Terms of Use for details.
Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.
- Privacy policy
- About Wikipedia
- Disclaimers