Covering Natural Disasters

VOLCANOES
Hot, harmful gases, ashes, and fine dust can cause respiratory illnesses, poisoning, or suffocation. Eruptions can lead to additional threats such as mudslides, floods, wildfires, and contamination of drinking water.

Use a mask or a cloth moistened with water to cover your mouth and nose. Wear protective glasses.

If you are inside a building, stay there. If outside, stay away from buildings, trees, or other objects that might collapse.

Reduce your smoke exposure, for example by wearing a respirator, and keep your back to the wind.

Seek advice from local authorities on which areas are safe. Do not attempt to cross or enter affected areas.

Be aware of secondary tremor which can cause additional damage. Additional threats include landslides, hazardous spills, fires, and, in some areas, tsunamis.

Earthquakes

FOREST FIRES
Smoke from wildfires can cause serious health risks, including irritated eyes, lung diseases, and heart failure. After a wildfire has been extinguished, secondary risks like landslides, debris flow, and water contamination can occur.

Create a checklist of materials to bring. For example, include extra provisions, a first aid kit, and protective gear. Protect electronic devices with waterproof, anti-shock cases, and bring external batteries for your devices.

Identify safe entry and exit points to the area you will be covering. Ideally, get a briefing from emergency responders who are already on the ground. Establish at least two channels of communication, and check mobile coverage in the area prior to departure.

Practice situational awareness as situations can change rapidly. If they do, re-assess whether you should stay or evacuate. Always follow warnings by authorities and disaster experts.

Be aware of the emotional limits of victims, responders, and yourself when conducting interviews. Backup recorded materials (video, audio, transcripts, etc.) whenever possible.

Be aware of the emotional impacts of the situation you are in.

Earthquakes

Landslides
Mudslides often occur or are accompanied by heavy rains. Other threats associated with landslides include rapidly moving debris, as well as broken electrical, gas, or sewage lines.

Avoid crossing rivers or flooded areas. Protect yourself from exposure to floodwater. Wash areas that come in contact with floodwater. Wash areas that come in contact with floodwater. Wash areas that come in contact with floodwater.

Even seemingly shallow floodwater can pose a serious risk for drowning. It can carry heavy debris, downed power lines, infectious diseases, and hazardous waste.

Floods

About Securing Access to Free Expression (SAFE) - SAFE is IREX’s flagship program to enable media practitioners and social communicators to work as safely as possible in closed and closing spaces. SAFE equips these individuals with means to resiliently continue their important works, and manage—as well as mitigate—the risks and threats they face in their day-to-day work. SAFE addresses safety through the unique lens of digital identity, physical awareness, and psychosocial care by delivering trainings in four regions spanning the globe.