

Hazards & Risk Term Project

Geologic Catastrophes 107

Project Description

Ever wonder what would happen if a major earthquake occurred on the Seattle or Tacoma Faults? What it would mean to the area if Mount Rainier were to erupt? Why Seattle's hillsides start sliding yearly between January and March? The Puget Sound area is subject to several geologic hazards, but depending on the location of your home within the region, these hazards may affect you personally more or less than the region as a whole.

Your term project is to tackle a research paper that evaluates the *geologic hazards of the entire Puget Sound region* and the *specific geologic risks of the area where you live* (your hometown within the Puget Sound). The paper will be completed in sections, and pulled together into an overall final hazard/risk assessment research paper that will include the following sections:

INTRODUCTION



EARTHQUAKES

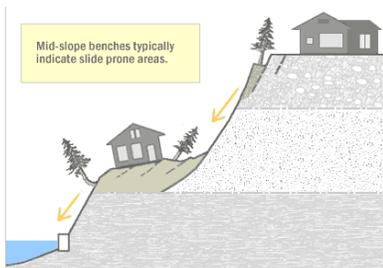
Earthquake Hazards in the Pacific Northwest

Personal Earthquake Risk Assessment

VOLCANOES

Volcanic Hazards in Washington

Personal Volcanic Risk Assessment



LANDSLIDES

Landslide Hazards in the Puget Sound Lowlands

Personal Landslide Risk Assessment

CONCLUSION

WORKS CITED

Project Objectives

The Hazard and Risk Term Project is an essential part of this course and replaces a final examination (in both scope and weight). The purpose of this project is to demonstrate your ability to research, critically analyze sources and evaluate and reduce personal and community risk from geologic events that may occur where you live.

The Research

Homework assignments and in-class activities will point you in the direction of sources for your paper. In addition to these sources as well as your notes, you are expected to do some independent research on your own. You can find lots of information specific to hazards and risks in Washington State by searching the school library, local public library branches, and the internet. Many cities have hazard maps, hazard reports, and disaster preparedness information on-line. You can check to see if your city is one of them by looking up your city's website. Many government organizations, such as local emergency management offices, the State's emergency management office, Washington State's Department of Natural Resources in Olympia and the US Geological Survey others provide information both in their offices and online. Scientific journals, magazines, newspapers, books, and other scientific publications are also good sources of information.

Project grade value and late policy

You will submit draft papers for two of the three major sections: one on earthquake hazards and one on volcanic hazards. These drafts are due at intermediate dates during the quarter. Writing the drafts will help you figure out how to write the whole paper and improve it for the final version. **Each of the drafts is worth 20 points. Late penalties: 20% the first day, 40% second day.**

The final paper will incorporate the first two drafts (earthquakes and volcanoes) and will add landslide hazards to the mix.

The final version of the paper is worth 250 points. Papers will not be accepted more than 24 hours late.