

EDITORIAL

The U.S. Geophysical Data Center Can Provide Natural Hazards Damage Photographs

Photographs of damage caused by natural hazards represent a unique form of data, which capture the transient consequences of Earth's periodic upheavals. They provide a permanent record of effects that would otherwise be erased forever. Photographs serve as a reminder to both the research scientist and the layman not only that such events can—and probably will—recur, but that we should be prepared to handle their consequences in the future.

The National Geophysical Data Center (NGDC) and World Data Center A for Solid Earth Geophysics have collected 35-mm slides from many private and government sources and have organized them into 18 sets. These slides depict geologic hazards throughout the world. Each slide set consists of 20 slides in color and/or black and white and sells for \$25.00 plus handling. Included with the slides is documentation that provides background material, dates, locations, and descriptions of effects for the depicted hazards. The documentation has a small black and white print of each slide next to the description of that slide. As a special service to educators, 20 multiple-choice questions and their answers are available free of charge for each of the sets. (In the following description the titles of sets are indicated in italics.)¹

The eighteen slide sets illustrate four types of geologic hazards: earthquakes (12 sets), volcanoes (4 sets), *Tsunamis* (1 set), and *Landslides* (1 set).

Two of the earthquake-related slide sets depict general topics. *Earthquake Damage—General* illustrates sev-

eral kinds of effects caused by 11 earthquakes in the United States and around the world; *Faults* includes a schematic and illustrations showing normal, reverse, and strike-slip faults, and related features. These are excellent sets for educational purposes.

Two of the earthquake-related slide sets portray specific types of earthquake damage: *Earthquake Damage to Transportation Systems* and *Earthquake Damage to Schools*. The transportation damage includes damage to streets, highways, bridges, overpasses and railroads.

Six of the earthquake-related slide sets depict damage from single earthquakes: *Earthquake Damage, San Francisco, California, April 18, 1906*; *Earthquake Damage, Great Alaska Earthquake, March 1964*; *Earthquake Damage, Mexico City, Mexico, September 1985*; *Earthquake Damage, the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic, December 1988*; *Earthquake Damage, Loma Prieta, October 1989, Set I—Loma Prieta Vicinity*; and *Earthquake Damage, Loma Prieta, October 1989, Set II—San Francisco and Oakland*.

Two earthquake-related slide sets depict damage from several smaller earthquakes in California. These are *Earthquake Damage, Southern California, 1979–1989* and *Earthquake Damage, Central California, 1980–1984*.

Of the four volcano-related slide sets, one depicts *Volcanic Rocks and Features*, two depict erupting volcanoes (*Volcanoes in Eruption, Set I* and *Set II*), and one illustrates *The Eruption of Mount Saint Helens, May 18, 1980*.

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¹To order slide sets, contact the National Geophysical Data Center, 325 Broadway, Department 851, Boulder, Colorado 80303-3328, Telephone (303) 497-6277, fax no. (303) 497-6513.