

Table 19.1 Average Annual Losses from Selected Natural Hazards in the United States

Hazard	Property Damage, \$ million	Deaths	Hazard	Property Damage, \$ million	Deaths
Swelling soil	5600	0-1	Floods	3800	200
Floods	3800	200	Lightning	200	>150
Earthquakes	1420	12	Tornadoes	75	125
Mass wasting	1000	25	Hurricanes	500	75
Hurricanes	500	75	Mass wasting	1000	25
Hail	284	0	Earthquakes	1420	12
Subsidence	200	(1-5)	Tsunami	26	5-7
Lightning	200	>150	Subsidence	200	(1-5)
Tornadoes	75	125	Volcanoes	25	(1-2)
Tsunami	26	5-7	Swelling soil	5600	0-1
Volcanoes	25	(1-2)	Hail	284	0
Total	13,130	±600	Total	13,130	±600

Sources: J. E. Costa and V. R. Baker, *Surficial Geology: Building with the Earth*, 1981, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York, NY, and various others.

Questions: What reasoned explanation can you give for:

1) the fear of floods and the general lack of knowledge about the cost of swelling soils?

2) as polls indicate, the greater general fear of earthquakes over tornadoes.