

UNIT 3 >>> Eyewitness

1 Think of five different kinds of natural disaster. Have you read about any actual natural disasters before? What details can you remember? How did the authorities respond?

2 Read the texts quickly. One of the disasters may have been man-made. Which one?

A Typhoon Haiyan

a Storm Survivors charity update

Storm Survivors would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan. One of the strongest storms ever to hit land, it roared through the central Philippines on November 8th, 2013, killing nearly 6,000 people and destroying the homes of more than 3.6 million. The four-metre waves and 380kph winds devastated coastal cities and destroyed many of the region's roads, water systems and telephone lines. Since the typhoon, Storm Survivors has been working hard to reach those affected by the storm. Within one month, we had reached almost 100,000 people with emergency food, shelter, medical attention and other help. We're preparing long-term plans to help people in over 70,000 houses in the disaster-prone country return to everyday life. Please continue to donate what you can. Thank you.



B The first thing I heard was a loud roar, like a train.

Susie

Yeah. Me too. Then the really heavy rain. When you live in Oklahoma, you know that this means one thing: tornado.

Josh

Yeah. What did you do?

Susie

Our teacher told us to get under the desks. A couple of people starting screaming but most of us were calm.

Josh

It was the same in my class. I was really scared. The whole school building sounded like it was groaning. It was so noisy.

Susie

I couldn't believe what I saw when we got out. The walls had disappeared and the roof had blown away. Where do you think we'll go to school now?

Josh

I don't know. It's going to take ages to clear up the town and rebuild the whole area. ☹️

Susie

C Melbourne wildfires, February 2014

- Thousands of firefighters battling wildfires across south-east Australia.
- Worst of the fires reached the outskirts of Melbourne.
- Worst natural disaster since the Black Saturday fires in February 2009.
- More than 30,000 locals spent the night without power.
- No reports of deaths.
- Police are investigating nine cases of arson, which may have contributed to the 150 fires that have broken out in recent days.
- Authorities said they had learned the lessons from Black Saturday, which killed 173 people. Victoria's mayor, John Langham, told me, 'We evacuated people early this time and communications were clearer.'

3 Read the texts again and answer the questions.

- 1 Before 2014, when was the last time wildfires struck the state of Victoria? _____
- 2 Where did Josh and Susie hide during the tornado? _____
- 3 Write three resources that *Storm Survivors* provided for Typhoon Haiyan's survivors: _____
- 4 According to Josh and Susie, which two things indicate a tornado is coming? _____
- 5 How many people had no electricity during the wildfires? _____
- 6 Which phrase tells us that many typhoons hit the Philippines? _____
- 7 How did the Melbourne authorities respond better in 2014 than they did the last time wildfires struck? _____

4 Choose one of the disasters. Imagine you were at the scene as it struck. Describe the sights, sounds and smells around you.