



# Enhancing the News

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May 2008

## **Cruel forces of nature**

A shocking earthquake has killed over 13,000 people in China, the second Asian country left devastated by a terrible natural disaster in less than a month.

China's death toll is expected to soar as the powerful earthquake, identified as the worst to hit the country in over 30 years, has left thousands of people buried in rubble.

This tragic event comes not long after cyclone Nargis swept through Burma leaving a path of destruction in its wake. As many as 100,000 people are feared dead and the lives of 1.5 million people in cyclone-affected areas are at risk from disease and starvation.

To explore natural disasters in the classroom, why not download the free feature article, [Our Violent World](#). If you prefer to use audio-visual material, this episode of [Behind the News](#) contains a story on drought and a story on earthquakes, and this [Behind the News](#) episode asks, what is a cyclone and will they become more prevalent with climate change? [Behind the News Specials: Natural Disasters](#) examines how and why natural disasters occur as well as what can be done to cope with the consequences. [Scope: Natural Disasters](#) looks at natural disasters and reveals how we can understand them, predict them and prepare for them, and [Ttn](#) looks at how volcanoes form and why they could erupt at any time.

The [Hazards, Disasters and Survival complete series](#) shows what you can do to reduce the possibly devastating effects of natural disasters. [Tsunami: Wave of Disaster](#) reveals dramatic real footage that captures the sheer force and destruction of the massive tsunami that hit on December 26, 2004. [Surviving Katrina](#) explains what happened in New Orleans and asks how the response of the country's Government failed the people, and [Krakatoa: The Last Days](#) uses eyewitness accounts to tell the story of one of the most destructive natural disasters in history.

[Four Corners: Firestorm](#) conveys how Australia might deal with megafires of the future. [Volcano Hunt](#) follows a team of experts who set off to find a mysterious underwater volcano hiding in the depths of the Mediterranean Sea and discover worrying signs of activity.

[The 7.30 Report](#) features a story that reports on the humanitarian effort to answer the needs of those left devastated after cyclone Nargis swept through Burma. [Lateline](#) reports on the situation in Burma after the cyclone and looks at the efforts of foreign aid agencies to help provide relief.

For a complete list of available resources on this topic, visit the [Natural Disasters](#) theme page in the EnhanceTV [online store](#).

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