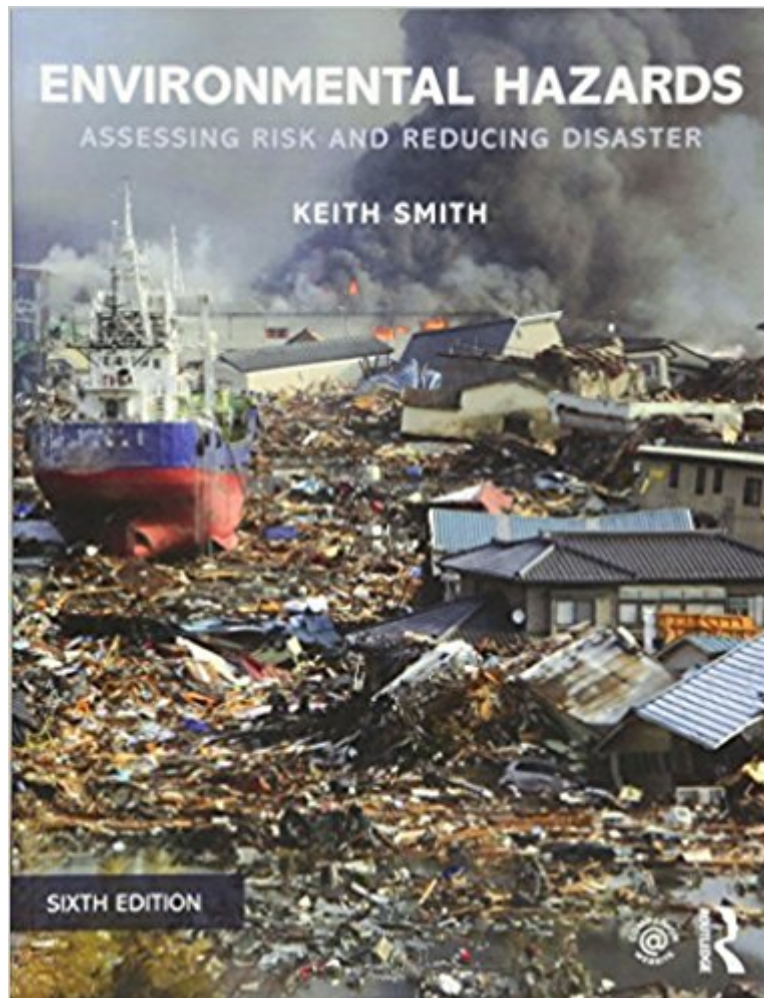




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# Environmental Hazards: Assessing Risk And Reducing Disaster



## Synopsis

The much expanded sixth edition of *Environmental Hazards* provides a fully up-to-date overview of all the extreme events that threaten people and what they value in the 21st century. It integrates cutting-edge material from the physical and social sciences to illustrate how natural and human systems interact to place communities of all sizes, and at all stages of economic development, at risk. It also explains in detail the various measures available to reduce the ongoing losses to life and property. Part One of this established textbook defines basic concepts of hazard, risk, vulnerability and disaster. Attention is given to the evolution of theory, to the scales and patterns of disaster impact and to the optimum management strategies needed to minimize the future impact of damaging events. Part Two employs a consistent chapter structure to demonstrate how individual hazards, such as earthquakes, severe storms, floods and droughts, plus biophysical and technological processes, create distinctive impacts and challenges throughout the world. The ways in which different societies can make positive responses to these threats are placed firmly in the context of sustainable development and global environmental change. This extensively revised edition includes:

- A new concluding chapter that summarizes the globalization of hazard and critically examines the latest perspectives on climate-related disasters
- Fresh perspectives on the reliability of disaster data, disaster risk reduction, severe storms, droughts and technological hazards
- More boxed sections with a focus on both generic issues and the lessons to be learned from a carefully selected range of recent extreme events
- An annotated list of key resources, including further reading and relevant websites, for all chapters
- 183 diagrams, now in full colour, and available to download on: [www.routledge.com/9780415681063/](http://www.routledge.com/9780415681063/)
- Over 30 colour photographs and more than 1,000 references to some of the most significant and recent published material.

*Environmental Hazards* is a clearly-written, authoritative account of the causes and consequences of the extreme natural and technological processes that cause death and destruction across the globe. It draws on the latest research findings to guide the reader from common problems, theories and policies to explore practical, real-world situations and solutions. This carefully structured and balanced book captures the complexity and dynamism of environmental hazards and has become essential reading for students of every kind seeking to understand this most important contemporary issue.

## Book Information

Paperback: 504 pages

Publisher: Routledge; 6 edition (January 4, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0415681065

ISBN-13: 978-0415681063

Product Dimensions: 1 x 7.2 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #139,023 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #35 in [Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Civil & Environmental > Environmental > Pollution](#) #233 in [Books > Textbooks > Science & Mathematics > Environmental Studies](#) #412 in [Books > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Geography](#)

## Customer Reviews

"The latest edition of Environmental Hazards provides a reliable guide to the ever changing field of natural hazards and disasters. The sixth edition covers a remarkable range of interdisciplinary topics in an accessible manner. The text is a unique resource for anyone wanting to understand how human society on planet Earth often finds itself in peril, and what we can do about it." Roger Pielke, Professor of Environmental Studies, University of Colorado at Boulder, USA. "Environmental Hazards has become the indispensable text for hazards students and scholars. The new edition brings together a wealth of updated and new case studies and examples. The common structure adopted for the chapters in Part II enables useful comparisons between hazard types and the varied risks and adaptation opportunities they present. This is a detailed and thorough treatment of the complex approaches to and challenges of hazard management." Dr Maureen Fordham, Enterprise Fellow Principal Lecturer in Disaster Management, University of Northumbria, UK. "This is one of a minority that combines information on the range of disasters—natural, biophysical and technological. It is also one of the only textbooks that provides a good general overview of the basic concepts important to the study of hazards such as disaster trends, risk management, vulnerability, mitigation/risk reduction, adaptation, etc. I would further argue that the language, case studies, suggestions for further readings, web links, etc. contribute to the book's pedagogical value for an undergraduate introductory text. If students have only one opportunity to learn about hazards in their undergraduate program then this book will indeed provide the basics." — Jessica Lehman - The University of British Columbia

Keith Smith is Emeritus Professor of Environmental Science and former Dean of Natural Sciences

at the University of Stirling. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

The author has made a comprehensive survey of what he calls systemic disaster risks and in doing so has accomplished a task that is essential to the field of Disaster Risk Reduction and this work is a pre-constructed foundation upon which any Disaster Risk Reduction initiative may be built. The book covers all known systemic risks and is an effective ramp leading to the position from which it becomes possible to expand our perceptual horizons to include non linear and apparently chaotic climate responses that may involve abrupt changes in the oceans Meridional Overturning Circulation and rising acidification of the oceans that can now be dimly discerned upon the horizon.

GOOD BUY

I was expecting this book to be better. Even though this is an updated version, it doesn't seem to have the most up-to-date information.

very good book

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