

Table I. *Description of the different types of disaster (Mantovani et al. 1998b).*

Natural disasters	Technological disasters
Earthquake	Leaks and chemical contamination
Flood	Joints of radioactive materials
Avalanches and landslides	Large-scale intoxication
Exceptional snowfall	Explosions
Fires	Massive accidents
Volcanic eruptions	Collapse of dams
Storms and tidal waves	Massive movements of populations and refugees
Hurricanes	
Typhoons	
Massive invasions of wild and / or synanthropic animals	
Drought and famine	