

Extreme Weather

By Ann O Squire

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Extreme weather - heavy rainfall Heavy rainfall is one of the most frequent and widespread severe weather hazards to affect New Zealand. It is defined as rainfall greater than 100 mm in 24 hours. source: niwa.co.nz. Extreme weather includes unexpected, unusual, unpredictable, severe or unseasonal weather; weather at the extremes of the historical distribution—the range that has been seen in the past. Often, extreme events are based on a location's recorded weather history and defined as lying in the most unusual ten percent.

Extreme weather is a weather event such as snow, rain, drought, flood, or storm that is rare for the place where it occurs. For example, normal temperatures at the equator would constitute a heat wave if they occurred at the North Pole. Because extreme weather is by definition rare, it is difficult to assess the risk of such events, including changes in risk with global warming. Ask: What do you know about extreme weather on Earth? Have students brainstorm a list of weather-related words and phrases. Write their responses on the board. Then ask students to sort the list into logical categories, such as types of weather, tools to measure weather, and effects of weather. 2. Discuss a photo gallery of extreme weather. Tell students they will look at a photo gallery of extreme weather and then watch a video about weather. Display the photo gallery Extreme Weather. Extreme weather causes a lot of damage. Unfortunately we can't eliminate this natural hazard, but we can reduce its impact. One way to lessen the impact is by being prepared. Coastal areas experience high waves from extreme weather events such as hurricanes. There are several techniques engineers use to protect coastal areas from flooding or erosion. Seawalls are concrete walls built along beaches that experience large waves.