Earthquakes

By Lucy Crabb

People, animals and nature have all been devastated by earthquakes. Having an understanding of how earthquakes occur and the direct consequences resulting from them makes it easier for us to predict the damage effecting.

How Do Earthquakes Occur?

Earthquakes occur by tectonic plates drifting from place to place breaking apart, colliding and grinding against each other. All plates move each other in different directions and at different speeds. Some plates crash together, pull apart, or side swap each other. When this happens it usually causes an earthquake.

What are tectonic plates?

Tectonic plates are made out of the earth’s crust and upper mantle, to be composed as several, large, thin relatively rigid plates. Tectonic plates are made in all different shapes and sizes. These are all the main Tectonic plates around the world:

* Eurasian plate
* Pacific plate
* Nazca plate
* American plate
* African plate
* Antarctic plate
* Indian/Australian plate

What are the direct consequences from having an earthquake?

Earthquakes can cause an extremely big amount if disasters. If the Tectonic plates crash together underwater, it pushes the water up and makes big swells of water travelling really fast towards land. Causing it to flood big parts of the country. Usually, earthquakes occur on land, but, just recently, there has been tsunami’s, earthquakes and fires in Japan because the earthquake was underwater.

How much Damage does an Earthquake cause?

The main factors determine on how much shaking, so therefore, the damage from an earthquake are its :

* Location
* Magnitude
* Intensity
* Depth Below the Earth’s Surface

If the depth below the earth’s surface is shallow, it will cause more damage to the place where ever the earthquake is because the shallower it is, the closer it gets to the earth’s surface.

In conclusion, earthquakes are a natural disaster which can cause copious amounts of damage. Having a little bit of understanding about how earthquakes occur, helps man predict the disasters earthquakes can cause.