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Top 10 Most Devastating Floods in History

To fully understand the effect floods have on civilizations please enjoy the following list of the top 10 most devastating floods in history.

/24-7PressRelease/ - WAKE FOREST, NC, July 17, 2008 - 1. Huang He (Yellow) River, China 1931

Death Toll: 1,000,000 to 3,700,000

The Huang He river is prone to flooding due to the surrounding low plains. A high silt content in the river (which also gives the river its name, "yellow") causes the river to gain volume, helping it to rise above the plains. Death tolls are often high because there are so many people in the surrounding area and no real way to escape.

2. Huang He (Yellow) River, China 1887

Death Toll: 900,000 to 2,000,000

For years, farmers living along the yellow river were building dikes to protect their land from the rising waters. During a bad 2 day storm, the waters rose too rapidly for them to contain, and their dikes were overpowered and lands flooded. At the time, it was one of the worst natural disasters ever recorded, and still is among the worst.

3. Huang He (Yellow) River, China 1938

Death Toll: 500,000 - 900,000

In 1938, Nationalist Chinese troops actually broke the levees themselves hoping to turn back advancing Japanese troops. Although it did work to some extent, the death toll was very high.

4. Huang He (Yellow) River, China 1642

Death Toll: 300,000

Chinese rebels along the city of Kaifeng and destroyed the dikes. The area lost roughly half of its residents, making it the 2nd largest loss of human life at the time. The city was abandoned after the flood until 1662.

5. Ru River, Banqiao Dam, China 1975

Death Toll: 230,000

Heavy rain caused by a typhoon caused the collapse of the Banquia Dam along with several others. The water accumulated was more than a years worth of normal rainfall.

6. Yangtze River, China 1931

Death Toll: 145,000

The Yangtze River is the longest river in Asia, and the third longest in the world. Unfortunately, it has such a tendency to flood they've had over 1,000 floods. The river is so large it receives water from both Northern and Southern flanks, contributing largely to its flooding.

7. The Netherlands and England 1099

Death Toll: 100,000

100,000 were killed when high tides and storms flooded the Thames and the Netherlands.

8. The Netherlands 1287

Death Toll: 50,000

The polder was flooded due to the failure of a seawall on the Zuider Zee, a complicated dam system protecting the surrounding areas.

9. The Neva River, Russia 1824

Death Toll: 10,000

Before the flood, there had been a very cold winter. Ice backed up the river for days, and water backed up behind the ice. When the natural ice dam broke, water flooded everywhere uniting canals and streets alike.

10. The Netherlands 1421

Death Toll: 10,000

Although the Zuider Zee had prevented many floods in the past, it would fail to stop some of the stronger storms. In 1421 another failure of a seawall on the Zuider Zee caused the flood.

About the Water Damage Team

The Water Damage Team is a nation wide disaster restoration company, with years of experience in water removal and water drying. As well as storm damage clean up, contaminated water removal of all levels, structural drying, debris removal and mold remediation. Our water damage restoration specialist are trained and certified in all of the industries standards and techniques. At the Water Damage Team we understand that rapid response is key to preventing any additional loss, so our specialist are available to answer calls and response 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Call 1-800-533-0626 for immediate assistance.