Disaster Report
The Johnstown Flood

Mitigation and Preparedness (the first time)

The people of Johnstown were used to regular flooding. It wasn’t uncommon for heavy snow or rain to lightly flood the town for a few hours. However, this was not a light flood. The South Fork Fishing & Hunting Club had created a dam in the lake that was the source of the river that ran through Johnstown in order to make fishing easier. They did not maintain this dam. Eventually, this damn started to break haphazard attempts were made to try to relieve the pressure of the lake on the dam, but soon enough the dam “just moved away.”

Disaster

“Within the hour, a body of water which engineers at the time estimated moved into the valley with the force of Niagara Falls, rolled into Johnstown with 14 miles of accumulated debris, which included houses, barns, animals and people, dead and alive.” 2,209 people died. 99 entire families died, including 396 children. 124 women and 198 men were left widowed. 1,600 homes were destroyed. $17 million in property damage was done.

Response

The response was immediate, hundreds of newspapers from around the country came to report on the disaster the next day. While some stories were stretched or downright fabricated, people from around the country and around the world sent supplies to Johnstown. The Red Cross came to help with relief. This was the first major disaster that the Red Cross had come to help with. $3,742,818.78 was collected for the Johnstown relief effort from within the U.S. and 18 foreign countries. Doctors left their practices and came to assist the townspeople with their injuries. Those who were able set up tents set up tents and began to rebuild their former homes.

Recovery

People rebuilt their own homes and continued living their lives. The whole town was rebuilt to its pre-flood state within 5 to 10 years. The Red Cross played a large role in assisting the rebuilding of homes.

Mitigation and Preparation (after the flood)

Despite the massive damage, no real effort was made to prevent further flooding. Johnstown continued to receive minor flood rather frequently. It wasn’t until another large flood occurred in 1936 that efforts began to be made to prevent flooding damage in Johnstown.
San Francisco 1906 Earthquake

**Preparation:**

The earthquake studies were very behind those in Europe and Japan. The San Franciscans were not prepared for this major earthquake. This earth catapulted seismology studies in the United States. The first seismograph was installed 19 years before hand. Most if not all of their buildings were not prepared for an earthquake of this magnitude.

**Disaster:**

On April 18, 1906 at 5:12 in the morning one the most well-known earthquakes started. The magnitude is debated, it ranges from 7.7-8-3. The shakes were felt all over California, Nevada, and Oregon. The land shook at approximately 3 miles per hour. After the ground stop shaking, many small fires started. Since there were so many fires, the fireman were spread thin and could not put out the fires as quickly In the aftermath the death toll was tallied to around 3,000 people, and 225,000 people were left homeless.

**Recovery:**

San Francisco had to rebuild quickly in order not to lose more money. They could rebuild in any way they chose. The cable cars were running in a few short weeks. The banks were up and in a few month. The citizens who were able to help rebuild the city. They helped clear the rubble off the streets and build new building. Within three the entire city was rebuilt, which was about 20,000 buildings. Some say that the San Francisco was easily destroyed because it was built so quickly during the Gold Rush. This disaster has been greatly researched in order to give warning and figure out why earthquakes happen. It is still researched almost 110 years later.
Works Cited