

## Natural Disasters and Their Aftermath

Natural disasters are shocking, and they can bring tremendous destruction. They can destroy houses and make streets **impassable** because of the floodwater or **debris** that can accompany them. People can be hurt, some of them badly; some even die.

All this comes from an event that might last only a few seconds, such as a tornado, earthquake, or mudslide. Recovering from a disaster, though, can take weeks, months, even years. So as soon as a disaster is over, the tough and dangerous work of disaster relief begins.

Disaster relief involves everything from finding and caring for survivors, to communicating with the outside world, to restoring civil order. It involves helping disaster victims rebuild their homes, their local **infrastructure**, and their lives. Disaster relief also involves figuring out how the disaster happened, and finding ways to lessen the next one's impact.

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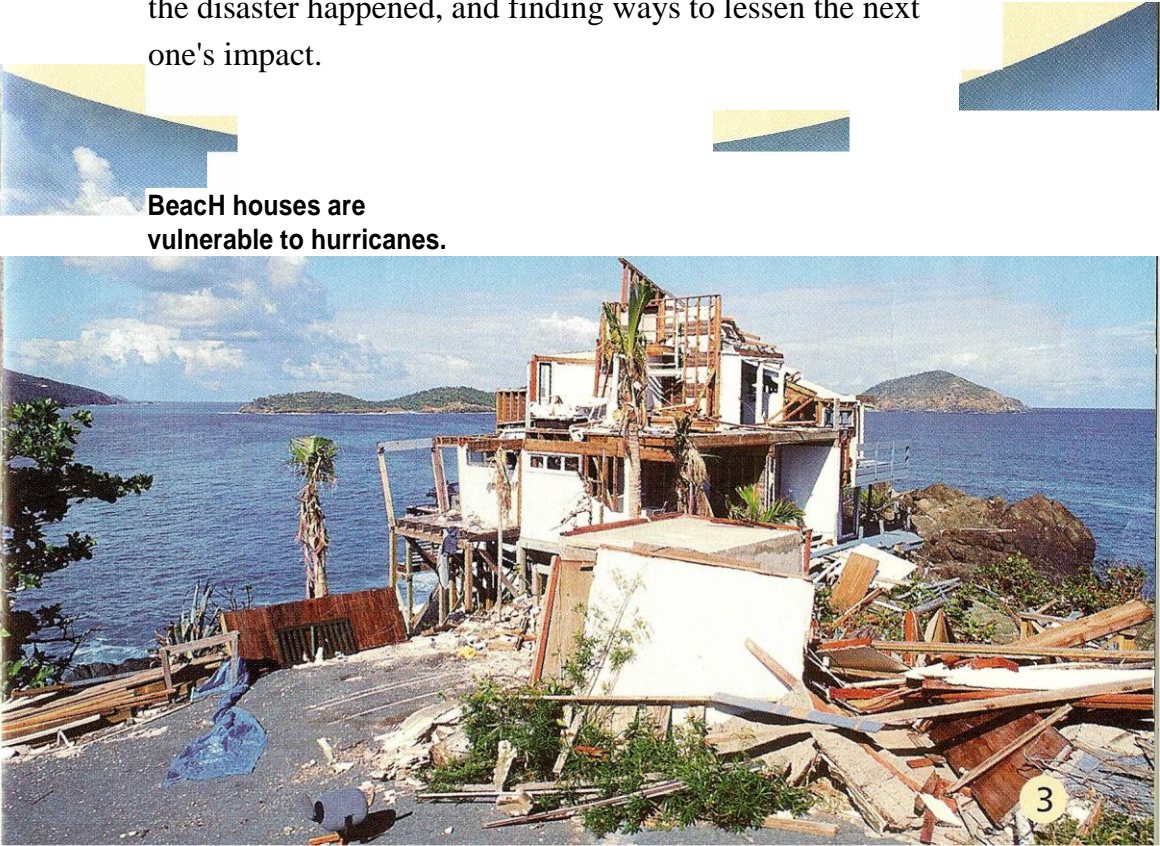
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Beach houses are vulnerable to hurricanes.