



**100 MOST
DANGEROUS
THINGS ON THE
PLANET**

WHAT TO DO IF IT HAPPENS TO YOU



**ANNA
CLAYBOURNE**



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INTRODUCTION

Today the world is probably safer for humans than it has ever been. Modern medicines, emergency services, warm dry houses, and clean water supplies have saved millions of lives. That's why, in most countries, the population is rising, and people are living longer and longer.

WILD WORLD

However, there are still some dangers that we can do little about. Human technology is no match for the mighty power of an exploding volcano or the force of a 30-metre- (100-foot-) high tsunami, or a powerful tornado. And much of our world is made up of remote wilderness and ocean, where you can easily get lost, or find yourself face-to-face with a dangerous animal.

LOOK AFTER YOURSELF

Of course, the best way to stay safe is to avoid dangerous situations in the first place.

STAY AWAY

Don't explore wild places alone, or without the right equipment. Whenever you can, keep clear of the kinds of dangerous things described in this book, such as thin ice, poisonous animals, or avalanche-risk areas.

WARNING

This book contains the most useful advice available for various dangerous situations. But the tips here are only general guidelines, and cannot be guaranteed to keep you safe. In a dangerous situation, there may be no truly safe option.

USE COMMON SENSE

Never do dangerous things for a laugh or a dare. If you don't feel safe, or you know something is risky, don't do it. If other people are doing it, try to persuade them not to, or get help.

HEED WARNINGS

In many dangerous places, such as crumbling cliffs and beaches with strong currents, there are signs to warn you where it's not safe to go. They are there to help you – don't ignore them!

OBEY INSTRUCTIONS

This book contains useful tips for lots of different kinds of dangers. But in a *particular* situation, such as an earthquake in your area, or seeing a dangerous animal, you should follow any instructions given to you by local guides, emergency services, or local warning systems. They are more likely to know the best course of action for that particular event.

On February 22, 1999, two large avalanches hit the town of Evolene in the Swiss Alps. Twelve people were killed, and more than a dozen went missing.



RISK RATING

Xe	.....	Rare
Xe Xe	.....	Unlikely
Xe Xe Xe	.....	Likely
Xe Xe Xe Xe	.....	Very Likely
Xe Xe Xe Xe Xe	.....	Frequent

DID YOU KNOW?

- A lightning bolt can be 6 times hotter than the surface of the Sun
- Hippos kill far more people than sharks do
- One of the biggest dangers in deserts is the cold – the temperature can be freezing at night

READ ON TO FIND
OUT MORE...



NATURAL

Much of our planet is wild and full of natural dangers. You could get lost in one of the world's vast deserts, jungles, oceans, or icy polar regions, or you could encounter a dangerous animal such as





DANGERS

a deadly snake, spider, or jellyfish. Natural disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis, and violent weather such as tornadoes and lightning, can affect us even when we're at home.



VOLCANIC ERUPTION

When a volcano erupts, hot lava (melted rock), gas, and burning ash burst out from inside Earth. An eruption can fling solid rock into the air, too. Most volcanoes have erupted many times before, forming mountains. They are closely monitored, so if one is about to erupt, there will usually be lots of warnings. But people do sometimes get caught in an eruption.

WHAT TO DO

IF THERE'S A WARNING:

The local area will be evacuated. Follow instructions and leave the area as quickly and safely as possible. Take blankets, food, and water in case you get stuck.

IF A VOLCANO ERUPTS NEAR YOU:

Head for high ground to avoid lava and mud that may flow down valleys. Wear clothes that protect you from falling ash. Protect your eyes with goggles, and your mouth and nose with a wet cloth.

IF A VOLCANO ERUPTS WHILE YOU'RE ON IT:

Head for a high ridge on the mountainside and avoid valleys, streams, and bridges. Look for large rocks for shelter.

DANGER RATING

RISK RATING: ☠️☠️☠️

Millions of people live close to volcanoes, but there are only around 60 eruptions a year.

SURVIVAL RATING: 80%

You should be able to escape, even if you're on the volcano.



TOP TIP! If rocks start falling around you, curl up and cover your head!

LAVA FLOW

Some volcanoes erupt very gently and quietly. There's no big explosion – just lava flowing down the volcano's sides. It could take you by surprise if it suddenly flows faster or changes direction.

You can even have a lava flow without a volcano. Sometimes lava comes to the surface of Earth's crust in an unexpected place, forming a new volcano.

WHAT TO DO

IF A LAVA FLOW IS COMING:

If you see lava heading your way, move quickly, heading uphill. Check for other lava flows as you go, so that you don't get trapped. Steer clear of water and plants, as lava can explode when it touches them.

IF LAVA SURROUNDS YOU:

You need to get away fast, while

HOW HOT?

Lava is VERY HOT. It is made of melted rock – and it takes very high temperatures to melt rock. Most lava is at least 500°C (930°F), but it can be as hot as 1,300°C (2,370°F).

Kilauea Volcano in Hawaii is one of many volcanoes around the world where visitors can watch lava flows in action.



DANGER RATING

RISK RATING: ☠ ☠ ☠

Lava is a danger to the many tourists who visit active volcanoes.

SURVIVAL RATING: 90%

As most lava is slow-moving, you can usually get away from it.

the flow is small. Jump over it if you can do so safely. Or look out for rocks you can use as stepping stones. Avoid stepping on fresh lava, even if it looks solid.

AVOID LAVA BURNS:

Near lava, wear tough leather boots, long sleeves and trousers, a hat, gloves, and sunglasses or goggles. If lava spatters or explodes, turn your face away quickly to avoid burns.