

# FROM EARTHQUAKES TO EPIDEMICS

## HOW DISASTERS TRANSFORM CALIFORNIA'S PEOPLE AND PLACES

### LIVING IN CALIFORNIA MEANS LIVING WITH NATURAL DISASTERS.

California is home to one out of every eight Americans. As such, fires, floods, earthquakes, and droughts in this state make an especially large impact. But with the acceleration of climate change, we are experiencing disasters with increased frequency and intensity. These major events affect Californians differently depending on their age, location, socioeconomic status, and race, among other factors. Although these events can often be devastating, they can also be opportunities for positive changes within our communities.

While *From Earthquakes to Epidemics: How Disasters Transform California's People and Places* profiles a number of these disasters and epidemics, there are still many more that have taken place in our shared history. Which disasters have affected you and your community? Are you ready for the next one? And how will it change our communities and our society?



A sign warning people about Covid-19 is surrounded by flames during the Hennessey fire near Lake Berryessa in Napa, California on August 18, 2020. Photo by Josh Edelson/AFP via Getty Images.

**“...WITHOUT PROACTIVE POLICIES, CLIMATE CHANGE WILL LIKELY REINFORCE AND AMPLIFY CURRENT AS WELL AS FUTURE SOCIOECONOMIC DISPARITIES, LEAVING LOW-INCOME, MINORITY, AND POLITICALLY MARGINALIZED GROUPS WITH FEWER ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND MORE ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH BURDENS.”**

– California's Climate Change Center

*From Earthquakes to Epidemics* is a traveling exhibition from Exhibit Envoy, a 501c3 nonprofit. Exhibit Envoy's mission is to provide institutions with diverse and meaningful traveling exhibitions to strengthen their communities. This project has been made possible in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy demands wisdom. Learn more at [neh.gov](https://www.neh.gov).

This exhibition is advised by Dr. Juan Declet-Barreto, who combines the humanities and science in his work as a Climate Vulnerability Social Scientist at the Union of Concerned Scientists. Dr. Declet-Barreto earned a Ph.D. in environmental social sciences, M.A. and B.S. degrees in geography, and an associate's degree in geographic information systems from Arizona State University.

Special thanks to the Exhibit Envoy exhibition team: Katie Azanza, Amy Cohen, and Angeera Khadka.



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