

Chapter 9: Social and Environmental Responsibility Continued



Environmental hazard 3: Radiation

- We are all exposed to radiation every day.
- Most radiation is natural and harmless.
- However, ultraviolet radiation (UV) from the sun, can cause skin cancer and cataracts.
- Other forms of radiation includes: X-rays and CT scans used in hospitals.

Environmental hazard 5: Fires

Causes	Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Lightning strikes● Accidents- for example, people do not make sure their camp fires are put out properly● Deliberate actions- people start fires on purpose so that they can clear the land easily without chopping down trees and removing plants● Fireworks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Large amounts of smoke and ash go into the atmosphere and pollute the air● The fire can spread and burn down houses and crops, which means people don't have anywhere to live or food to eat● Can damage power lines so that people don't have electricity● Many animals, including cattle, die from smoke or are burnt● Grass that keeps the soil together is destroyed, leading to soil erosion● People are killed● Smoke can prevent people from seeing where they are driving, so they could have accidents
Fires in buildings	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Damaged electrical cords● Overloading electrical plugs● Wood and coal heaters giving off sparks● Cigarettes not put on properly● Flammable liquids, such as petrol and paraffin, and chemicals catching alight● Cooking oil catching alight● Children playing with matches	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● People are burnt or die from inhaling smoke● Homes are destroyed● Factories or businesses may be destroyed so that people lose their jobs

Environmental hazard 6: wind damage

- **Strong winds such as: gales, storms and hurricanes can cause severe damage, injury and loss of life.**
- **Wind can cause the following damage**
 - : roofs are being blown**
 - : trees being falling over**
 - : fruit falling off trees (since it will be damaged, it cannot be eaten)**
 - : fires raging out of control and spreading**
 - : power lines being damaged, cutting off electricity**

Environmental hazard 7: loss of open space and lack of infrastructure

- **Those who live in or near towns and cities take over large areas of land that could be used for growing crops and grazing cattle.**
- **They cut down trees that produce oxygen and that use the carbon dioxide that causes climate change.**

The infrastructure of towns and cities cannot cope with all the people:

- There are not enough houses, so people build temporary shelters that are not strong or do not keep out the rain
- The sewage system cannot cope with all the extra waste. Then sewage gets into the water and makes it unfit to drink.
- As there is no electricity, people make coal and wood fires, which cause pollution.
- Blocks of flats, shopping malls and parking garages are built, thereby reducing green open spaces.
- Rubbish is not collected. Instead, it is dumped in open spaces where it is left to rot and burn. This rubbish attracts pests and rats, and leads to diseases.
- More roads have to be built so that people can get to work and the shops. The roads take up more land.

Complete the below activity

Activity 4: Identify environmental hazards

1. Identify the environmental hazard that causes the most harm where you live. (5)
2. Write an essay in which you describe three ways to overcome or lessen the impact of the hazard. (10)

Key word

Infrastructure- the basic equipment and structures (such as roads, buildings, electricity and sanitation) that are needed for a country, region or town to function properly.