

NEW ZEALAND DISASTER: THE NAPIER EARTHQUAKE

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The Napier earthquake is named one of the worst earthquakes that ever happened. It occurred in 1931 and did lots of damage to Napier. There were lots of lives that were lost in this horrific earthquake.

THE EVENT:

On the 3rd of February at 10:47 am the Napier earthquake struck. It happened in the central town of Napier, it's also known as the Hawkes Bay earthquake, lots of buildings collapsed immediately. It was just a normal day for everyone and then the ground started shaking across Napier. The earthquake lasted 2 and a half minutes long, this was a very short amount of time, but it was still a very strong earthquake. It was a magnitude 7.8 earthquake! Some kids were at school when this happened and they were all very terrified. This was a very scary time for many people.



This building caught on fire after the earthquake had happened.

SOCIAL ACTION - WHAT'S BEEN DONE:

After the Napier earthquake happened everyone in Napier didn't want it to happen again so when they were rebuilding the town they made sure all the buildings were well built and had lots of support to them.

Sometimes earthquakes are just natural but we can reduce the major number of effects we have after an earthquake by making sure we are always ready if an earthquake happens and making sure everyone in Napier stays safe.



One of the damaged buildings in Napier after the earthquake.

THE EFFECTS:

After the Napier earthquake happened there was a horrendous fire that set almost every building on fire, it lasted for 2 and a half minutes. But the biggest effect was all the lives that were lost in this horrible and frightening earthquake. The earthquake sadly killed 256 people and injured more than 1000 people. But there was a problem, the hospital had collapsed and there was no roof so they couldn't take the injured people there. The medical authorities had to set up a makeshift hospital in the Botanic Gardens where they could help the injured people. The earthquake was so bad that it damaged more than 200 buildings. Also, some of the water pipes broke. Sadly after the earthquake, Napier had to build almost all their buildings and houses again and it took more than 2 years to rebuild everything which is a very long time.

MY OPINION:

I strongly agree that this is one of the worst earthquakes that ever happened and it's so sad that so many people died and lots of buildings collapsed. It must have been really hard for Napier to build more than 200 buildings again.

If this happens again in Methven then I would be terribly scared.

I think that if I was in this earthquake I would be horrified.

THE CAUSE:

Did you know that the movement of the tectonic plates caused the Napier earthquake? If you don't know what tectonic plates are then I will tell you. Tectonic plates are made when molten lava turns soft and then it forms a crust and the crust is then split apart and made into tectonic plates. When they move and interact with each other they start an earthquake.

The ground is under so much pressure that it fractures and breaks and there is lots of movement and shaking.



This is a street that had lots of damage done to it after the earthquake.

Bibliography:

Books

[Quake Hawkes Bay 1931 by Matthew Wright](#)

[Quake Rattle and Roll by Sarah Wilcox](#)

[School Journal November 2011 Earthquake by Lynn](#)

Websites

<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/hawkes-bay-earthquake-0>

Video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RwC0_T_IKmo

Pictures from google images.

