



# Global Catastrophe Recap

March 2020

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# Executive Summary

- Separate billion-dollar U.S. severe weather events highlight active month for tornadoes and hail
- Multiple flooding events were recorded across the globe; aggregate death toll neared 300
- Strongest earthquake in 140 years hit Croatian capital on March 22, damaging 26,000 buildings



**165**  
mph

Peak wind speed intensity of an EF3 tornado that tracked 60 miles through Nashville, TN on March 3



**26K**

Number of buildings damaged by earthquake in Zagreb, strongest event to affect the city since 1880



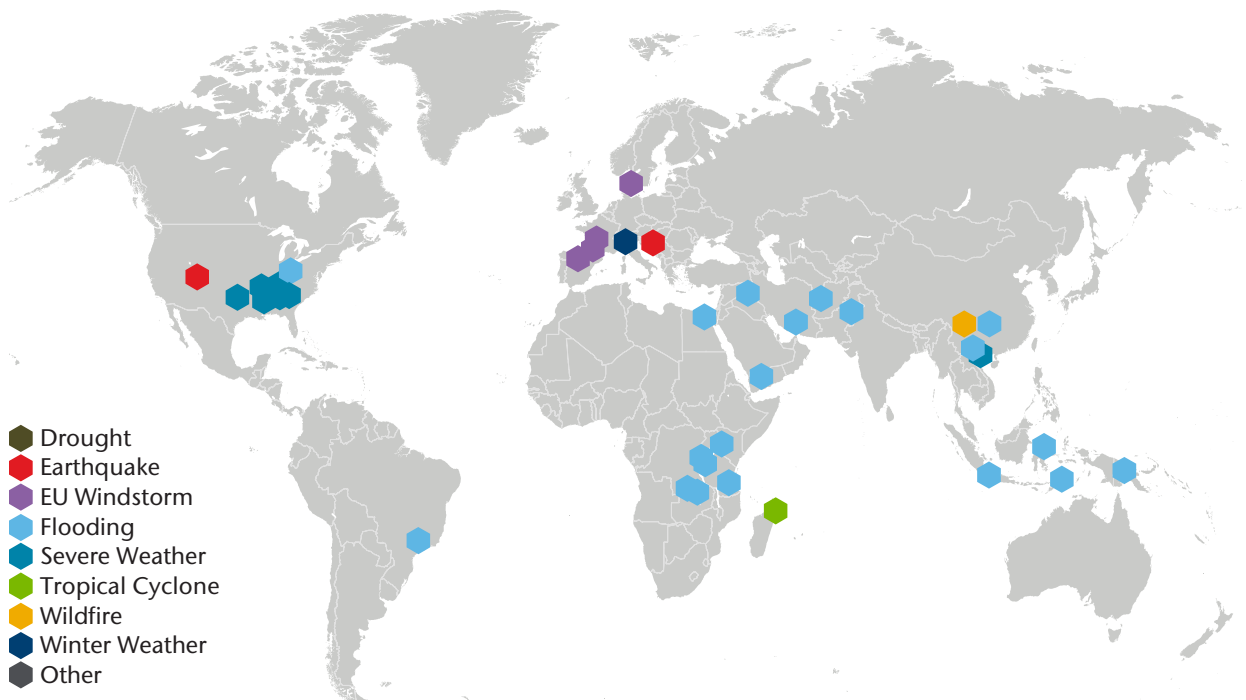
**282**

Global number of fatalities due to flooding events in the month of March



**5.7**

Magnitude of the March 18 Salt Lake City earthquake; strongest to strike Utah since Sep 1992 (M5.9)



## United States

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
03/02-03/05	Severe Weather	Midwest, Southeast	25	40,000+	1.1+ billion
03/11-03/13	Severe Weather	Midwest, Southeast	0	Thousands	10s of Millions
03/17-03/20	Severe Weather	Plains, Midwest, Southeast, Northeast	0	30,000+	290+ million
03/18	Earthquake	Utah	0	Thousands	Millions
03/20	Flooding	Midwest	8	Unknown	Millions
03/24	Severe Weather	Southeast	0	Thousands	10s of Millions
03/27-03/30	Severe Weather	Plains, Midwest, Southeast, Northeast	0	100,000+	1.0+ billion
03/31	Severe Weather	Southeast	0	10,000+	10s of Millions

Deadly tornadoes tracked across central Tennessee on March 3, killing at least 25 people and injuring nearly 300 others. All fatalities occurred within the greater Nashville metro region. A state of emergency was declared as the tornadoes including an EF4 and EF3 in metro Nashville damaged or destroyed more than 4,000 homes and businesses. The impacts were part of a broad storm system that spawned additional reports of tornadoes and large hail elsewhere in Tennessee, Missouri, Kentucky, Mississippi, Georgia, and Texas from March 2-5. Total economic losses were estimated in excess of USD1.1 billion. Roughly three-quarters of that total was covered by insurance.

A slow-moving pattern resulted in numerous severe thunderstorms from March 11-13 that caused widespread damage to property and vehicles in parts of Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas, and Kentucky as hail up to the size of baseballs occurred. Straight-line winds topping 60 mph (95 kph) were also recorded. Total economic and insured losses were estimated into the millions (USD).

Severe thunderstorms affected portions of the Plains, Midwest, Southeast, and Northeast from March 17-20, leading to widespread hail and straight-line wind damage. The hardest-hit areas came in Texas, where hail larger than the size of golf balls and tornadoes affected northern sections of the state (including around Dallas – Fort Worth). Days of heavy rainfall (which began on March 15) led to flash flooding in isolated spots. Total economic losses neared USD300 million as insurers paid out roughly USD225 million.

A magnitude-5.7 earthquake and subsequent aftershocks struck the greater Salt Lake City, Utah metro region on March 18, causing widespread damage. Most damage reports were associated with fallen brick façades, cracking to structures and infrastructure, and fallen indoor contents. At least 126 “historic buildings” were damaged. This was the strongest earthquake to strike Utah since September 1992 (M5.9). Total economic and insured losses were expected into the millions (USD).

Persistent heavy rainfall led to flash flooding across parts of Indiana and Ohio on March 20. At least eight people were killed after several creeks and streams in Franklin County, Indiana (six dead) and Harrison and Tuscarawas counties in Ohio (two dead) overflowed and washed away infrastructure. Multiple vehicles were also swept away.

A storm system spawned multiple tornado touchdowns, damaging straight-line winds, and hail on March 24 in parts of Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, and Georgia. The most notable tornado was an EF1 that tracked nearly 17 miles (27 kilometers) from Tishomingo County, Mississippi to Colbert County, Alabama. The twister caused extensive damage to several commercial buildings, single-family residences, and mobile homes. Total economic and insured losses were expected into the tens of millions (USD).

A major severe weather outbreak swept across parts of the central and eastern U.S. on March 27-30, leaving dozens of people injured. The multi-day event prompted two-dozen tornado touchdowns, up to softball-sized hail, damaging straight-line winds, synoptic winds, and flash flooding. The hardest-hit areas included Arkansas, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, and Indiana as a high volume of residential and commercial properties, vehicles, and agriculture were damaged or destroyed. Total economic losses were expected to approach or exceed USD1 billion. Most of the wind and hail-related damage was expected to be insured.

Severe convective storm damage occurred on March 31 across the Southeast. A fast-moving line of storms swept through much of the Southeast which resulted in nearly 100 individual reports of damaging straight-line winds, hail, and tornadoes. The event was expected to result in financial losses into the tens of millions (USD).

## Remainder of North America (Non-US)

There were no significant events in North America (Non-US) in the month of March.

## South America

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
03/01-03/03	Flooding	Brazil	70	Thousands	10s of Millions

Torrential rainfall on March 1-2 that impacted the metropolitan area of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil resulted in widespread urban flooding. More than 5,000 people lost their homes or were displaced. On March 3, extreme rainfall affected Sao Paulo state that spawned landslides in Guarujá, Santos and São Vicente that left 70 people dead or missing.

## Europe

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
03/01	Windstorm Leon	France	0	Hundreds	Millions
03/02	Windstorm Karine	France, Spain	0	Hundreds	Millions
03/03	Windstorm Myriam	France, Spain	0	Thousands	10s of Millions
03/12	Windstorm Laura	Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Poland	0	Thousands	10s of Millions
03/22	Earthquake	Croatia	1	26,197+	200+ million
03/23-04/02	Winter Weather	Italy, Central Europe	0	N/A	10s of Millions

An active stretch prompted at least three consecutive windstorm events – Leon, Karine, Myriam – that brought periods of very gusty winds and heavy rainfall to parts of France and Spain from March 1-3. No fatalities were reported. Damage impacts were widespread due to downed trees and powerlines. Total combined economic and insured losses were expected to reach well into the tens of millions EUR.

Windstorm Laura, also known locally as Hanna, brought periods of damaging high wind effects across parts of Denmark, Sweden, Germany, and Poland on March 12. The storm caused some property and forestry damage, along with power and travel disruption. Economic and insured losses were initially expected to reach into the tens of millions EUR. The highest average wind speeds in Denmark ranged between 47 to 55 mph (76 to 89 kph) but affected less than 30 percent of the national territory.

A strong, magnitude-5.4 earthquake struck north of Zagreb, Croatia on March 22, causing notable damage in the city and the surrounding region. Initial assessments revealed that 26,197 objects reported damage and were being inspected through late March. At least 1,900 buildings were marked as unusable. One fatality was directly attributed to the tremor and 27 others were injured. Unofficial, rough estimates from the local government placed the economic loss at around HRK2.0 billion (USD289 million); however, precise numbers have not been released. This was the strongest earthquake event to affect Zagreb in 140 years.

An outbreak of Arctic air from the northeast brought a period of wintry conditions to parts of Central and Southern Europe on March 23-26, causing some damage in the agricultural sector, particularly in Italy and Central Europe. Second notable cold spell occurred on March 30 - April 2, affecting roughly the same area. Total losses, particularly on fruit production, were expected in the tens of millions EUR.

## Middle East

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
02/24-03/31	Flooding	Iran	16	Thousands	120+ million
03/12-03/13	Flooding	Egypt	40	Thousands	76+ Million
03/18	Flooding	Iraq	8	1,000+	Millions
03/25	Flooding	Yemen	2	2,000+	10+ million

Seasonal floods in southern Iranian provinces, which started in late February, continued through late March, notably in Kerman, Lorestan, Fars, Khuzestan, and Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Provinces. There were at least 16 fatalities. Governmental officials estimated that the seasonal floods resulted in agricultural losses of at least USD120 million alone so far, with Fars and Kerman among the worst hit. Further economic impacts occurred due to regional infrastructure damage.

An extratropical cyclone affected parts of the Middle East on March 12-13, causing multiple fatalities and disruption due to heavy rain and strong winds. The worst situation was in Egypt, where 40 people lost their lives. Damage costs were minimally listed at EGP1.2 billion (USD76 million).

Heavy rains swept across parts of northern Iraq on March 18, leading to considerable flash flooding in multiple provinces (including Diyala and Duhok). At least eight people were killed in flood and storm-related instances. In Duhok alone, officials cited that more than 300 homes and dozens of businesses were inundated, and at least four small bridges were destroyed.

More than 75 millimeters (2.95 inches) of rain fell in the city of Aden, Yemen on March 25, spawning widespread flash flooding. At least two people were killed and several others injured. Floods also affected local communities and internally displaced in governorates Aden, Hadramaut, Al Mahrah, Lahj and other. Total economic costs to infrastructure alone were listed at YER1.45 billion (USD3.0 million).

## Africa

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
01/01-03/31	Flooding	Rwanda	60	1,000+	Millions
03/10-03/17	Flooding	Tanzania	0	3,500+	Unknown
03/13-03/17	Cyclone Herold	Madagascar	4	1,000+	Unknown
03/14-03/18	Flooding	Democratic Republic of the Congo	0	5,000+	Millions
03/16-03/22	Severe Weather	Burundi	2	1,000+	Millions
03/17-03/22	Flooding	Zambia	0	2,200+	Unknown
03/24-03/31	Flooding	Kenya	1	1,500+	Unknown

Seasonal rains continued in Rwanda as the death toll from January to March reached at least 60. During one stretch from March 2-7, at least 10 people died in Kigali and Southern Provinces. Hundreds of homes were flooded.

More than a week of heavy intermittent rainfall from March 10-17 resulted in considerable flash flooding in parts of Tanzania. The hardest-hit areas came in Rufiji District in the Coast Region, where at least 3,500 homes and 6,600 hectares (16,408 acres) of cropland were destroyed or swept away by raging waters from an overflowing Rufiji River.

Tropical Cyclone Herold developed near the coast of Madagascar on March 13 and stalled until March 17 while bringing days of torrential rains. The system led to widespread flood inundation in northeastern Madagascar, including in Maroantsetra and Antalaha. At least 3,000 people were affected and there were four fatalities.

Persistent heavy rainfall from March 14-18 spawned widespread flooding in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The hardest-hit areas came in southern Haut-Lomani province in Bukama Territory as roughly 30,000 people were left homeless after thousands of homes were inundated.

Severe thunderstorms brought high winds and flooding rains across Burundi from March 16-22. Two people were killed. The storms damaged or destroyed nearly 1,000 homes and other structures in Bujumbura Mairie, Rumonge, Gitega, and Ruyigi provinces.

Another wave of heavy seasonal rains affected Zambia from March 17-22. Major flooding was cited across at least 28 districts in the country with 700,000 people directly affected. More than 2,000 homes and other structures were inundated in districts such as Samfya, Mushindamo, and Nakonde. Further losses were incurred on infrastructure and agriculture.

Heavy downpours since March 24 affected parts of Western Kenya. One fatality was reported from Siaya County, where at least 1,000 people evacuated to safety. Further damage was reported from counties Busia, Kisumu, Homa Bay, Migori and other. Economic impact was not expected to be significant.

## Asia

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
03/02-03/05	Severe Weather	Vietnam	3	7,187+	1.5+ million
03/04-03/13	Flooding	Pakistan	44	1,000+	Unknown
03/04-03/06	Flooding	Indonesia	2	8,000+	7.2+ million
03/13	Flooding	East Timor	3	2,000+	20+ million
03/20-03/21	Flooding	Indonesia	0	10,000+	Millions
03/21-03/25	Severe Weather	Vietnam	1	5,430+	4.1+ million
03/25-03/31	Flooding	Afghanistan	35	3,000+	Unknown
03/30-03/31	Flooding	Indonesia	1	11,900+	Millions
03/30-03/31	Wildfire	China	19	N/A	Unknown
03/31	Flooding	China	8	Unknown	Millions

A wave of severe thunderstorms impacted at least seven provincial regions of Vietnam from March 2-5. Three people were killed and 16 others were injured. The inclement weather prompted damaging winds, large hail, flooding, and lightning that affected Yen Bai, Ha Giang, Tuyen Quang, Lai Chau, Lao Cai, Cao Bang, and Son La. Vietnam's Disaster Management Authority cited that 7,187 homes and other structures were damaged or destroyed, with some of the worst-hit areas in Ha Giang. Total economic losses were estimated into the millions (USD).

Heavy rains and inclement wintry weather swept across parts of Pakistan from March 4-13. At least 44 people were killed (41 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 3 in Balochistan) and more than 70 others were injured. Most casualties and physical damage occurred after structural walls collapsed in homes following flash flooding and landslides. More than 350 homes and other public facilities were damaged. Local authorities declared a state of emergency.

Heavy rain caused regional flooding in several areas of North Sulawesi Province and West Java Province of Indonesia from March 4-6. Two people were killed. The event affected at least 55 villages in Sangkub, Bintauna, West Bolangitang, and East Bolangitang Districts. According to the National Board for Disaster Management (BNPB), nearly 8,000 homes and other structures were damaged or destroyed. Direct economic losses were listed at IDR104.4 billion (USD7.2 million).

Notable regional flooding affected Dili, the capital of East Timor (Timor-Leste) on March 13. According to official assessments, more than 2,000 families were affected, with several hundred homes destroyed. Economic losses were preliminarily estimated at USD20 million.

Extensive rainfall affected parts of the Bandung Regency in West Java, Indonesia on March 20-21. No fatalities were reported. The Provincial Disaster Mitigation Office (BPBD) noted that seven sub-districts were inundated – Dayeuhkolot, Baleendah, Bojongsoang, Katapang, Soreang, Banjaran, and Majalaya – with up to 3 meters (9.8 feet) of floodwaters. At least 9,659 homes and 74 other public facilities were flooded during the event. Wide swaths of infrastructure were also affected.

Thunderstorms from March 21-25 affected multiple provinces in northern Vietnam, including Lao Cai, Lai Chau, Son La, Yen Bai and Dien Bien. Local disaster management officials confirmed damage to more than 5,400 homes and 25,000 hectares (61,750 acres) of arable land, with economic losses of at least VND94.5 billion (USD4.1 million).

Significant flash flooding across seven provinces of Western Afghanistan on March 25-31 killed at least 35 people and left 20 injured. Among the hardest hit were provinces Faryab, Herat, Badghis and Balkh. More than 3,000 homes were destroyed.



Heavy rain caused further flooding in the Bandung Regency of West Java on March 30-31, inundating at least 11,900 homes in districts Dayuehkolot, Baleendah and elsewhere. One fatality was reported.

At least 19 people were killed in a wildfire in southwest China's Sichuan Province on March 31, of whom 18 were firefighters. Economic impacts were not determined at the time of this writing, but initial reports suggested only minor property damage.

Landslides and localized flooding affected central and southern provinces of China on March 31. According to media reports, 7 people were killed in a landslide in Guizhou Province. In Chenzhou City of Hunan Province, a train derailed due to a rain-induced landslide resulting in 1 fatality and 127 injuries.

## Oceania (Australia, New Zealand, South Pacific Islands)

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
03/21-03/24	Flooding	Papua New Guinea	12	1,000+	Unknown

Torrential rains swept across Papua New Guinea from March 21-24 that led to flooding and landslides in Western Highlands and Chimbu provinces. At least 12 people were killed. The inclement weather damaged or inundated nearly 1,000 properties; many along the Wahgi River.

# Appendix

## Updated 2020 Data: January-February

### United States

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
01/10-01/12	Severe Weather	Central & Eastern U.S.	12	100,000+	1.2+ billion
02/03-02/08	Severe Weather	Central & Eastern U.S.	5	110,000+	1.1+ billion
02/08-02/10	Severe Weather	West	0	15,000+	140+ million
02/10-02/17	Flooding	Southeast	0	Thousands	175+ million
02/25-02/27	Winter Weather	Midwest, Northeast	1	Thousands	75+ million

### Remainder of North America (Non-U.S.)

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
01/07-01/11	Earthquake	Puerto Rico	1	20,000+	1.25+ billion
01/11-01/12	Flooding	Canada	0	6,200+	180+ million
01/14-01/18	Winter Weather	Canada	0	Thousands	10s of Millions
01/14-01/20	Winter Weather	Canada	0	Thousands	10s of Millions
01/17-01/18	Winter Weather	Canada	0	Thousands	10s of Millions
01/28	Earthquake	Cayman Islands, Jamaica, Cuba	0	2,250+	Millions
01/31-02/01	Flooding	Canada	0	2,000+	10s of Millions
02/06-02/08	Winter Weather	Canada	0	2,000+	10s of Millions
02/26-02/28	Winter Weather	Canada	1	Thousands	75+ million
02/28-02/29	Severe Weather	Honduras	3	Hundreds	Millions

### South America

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
01/17-01/29	Flooding	Brazil	70	Thousands	300+ million
02/08-02/29	Flooding	Bolivia	17	1,000+	10s of Millions
02/09-02/10	Flooding	Brazil	4	4,000+	50+ million
02/11-02/19	Flooding	Argentina	1	1,000+	Millions
02/17-02/25	Flooding	Peru	4	2,400+	Millions

## Europe

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
01/13	Windstorm Brendan	Ireland, United Kingdom	1	Thousands	10s of millions
01/19-01/23	Flooding	Spain	14	11,600+	200+ million
02/03-02/04	Windstorm Petra	Central Europe	3	Thousands	180+ million
02/09-02/10	Windstorm Ciara	Western & Central Europe	14	1.1+ million	2.3+ billion
02/15-02/16	Windstorm Dennis	Western & Northern Europe	6	Thousands	650+ million
02/23-02/24	Windstorm Yulia	Central Europe	0	Thousands	100+ million
02/27	Windstorm Bianca	Western & Central Europe	0	Thousands	10s of millions
02/29	Windstorm Jorge	Western Europe	0	Thousands	10s of millions

## Middle East

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
01/04-01/09	Flooding	Israel	7	45,000+	580+ million
01/09-01/20	Flooding	Iran	4	20,000+	808+ million
01/24	Earthquake	Turkey	41	23,000+	10s of millions
02/04-02/05	Winter Weather	Turkey	41	Unknown	Unknown
02/23	Earthquake	Turkey, Iran	14	6,000+	Millions

## Africa

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
01/01-01/31	Flooding	Madagascar, Mozambique	60	25,800+	Millions
01/28-02/03	Flooding	Tanzania	40	3,000+	Millions
01/28-02/13	Flooding	Burundi	3	5,000+	Millions
01/01-03/31	Flooding	Rwanda	60	Thousands	Millions

## Asia

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
01/04-01/07	Winter Weather	China	0	5,000+	70+ million
01/05-01/09	Severe Weather	China	0	2,500+	35+ million
01/11-01/14	Winter Weather	Afghanistan, Pakistan, India	157	Thousands	Millions
01/12-01/15	Volcano	Philippines	0	3,813	67+ million
01/19	Earthquake	China	1	8,000+	25+ million
01/23-01/28	Flooding	Indonesia	10	15,000+	Millions
01/24-01/31	Winter Weather	China	0	1,000+	50+ million
02/07-02/12	Flooding	Indonesia	0	4,000+	Millions
02/12-02/15	Severe Weather	China	1	Hundreds	16+ million
02/13-02/16	Winter Weather	China	0	Hundreds	30+ million
02/16-02/20	Flooding	Indonesia	6	20,000+	Millions
02/21-02/25	Flooding	Indonesia	10	35,000+	10s of millions

## Oceania (Australia, New Zealand, South Pacific Islands)

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
11/08-01/17	Heatwave/Bushfire	Australia	34	23,362+	Billions
01/18-01/20	Severe Weather	Australia	0	107,932+	965+ million
02/01-02/03	Flooding	New Zealand	0	1,000+	Millions
02/07-02/11	Severe Weather	Australia	0	77,598+	662+ million
02/25	Severe Weather	Australia	0	2,000+	Millions

## Additional Report Details

TD = Tropical Depression, TS = Tropical Storm, HU = Hurricane, TY = Typhoon, STY = Super Typhoon, CY = Cyclone

Fatality estimates as reported by public news media sources and official government agencies.

Structures defined as any building – including barns, outbuildings, mobile homes, single or multiple family dwellings, and commercial facilities – that is damaged or destroyed by winds, earthquakes, hail, flood, tornadoes, hurricanes or any other natural-occurring phenomenon. Claims defined as the number of claims (which could be a combination of homeowners, commercial, auto and others) reported by various public and private insurance entities through press releases or various public media outlets.

Damage estimates are obtained from various public media sources, including news websites, publications from insurance companies, financial institution press releases and official government agencies. Damage estimates are determined based on various public media sources, including news websites, publications from insurance companies, financial institution press releases, and official government agencies. Economic loss totals are separate from any available insured loss estimates. An insured loss is the portion of the economic loss covered by public or private insurance entities. In rare instances, specific events may include modeled loss estimates determined from utilizing Impact Forecasting’s suite of catastrophe model products.

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