

# What is NZ's biggest/worst disaster?

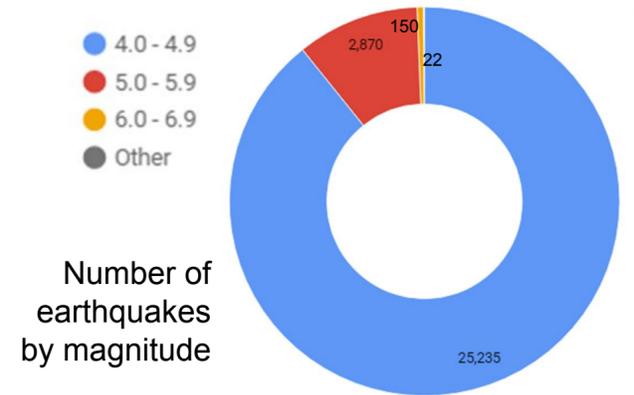
## Worst of 1900's-present

### Introduction

Throughout this poster, the things that will be explained are; How to/what is the best way to determine what the biggest/worst disaster in NZ is. (There are multiple different ways of assessing the size of the disaster and many ways of determining how.) Some of the biggest and worst disasters in NZ, some background information on each disaster (numbers of deaths within these disasters, etc.),

### NZ context

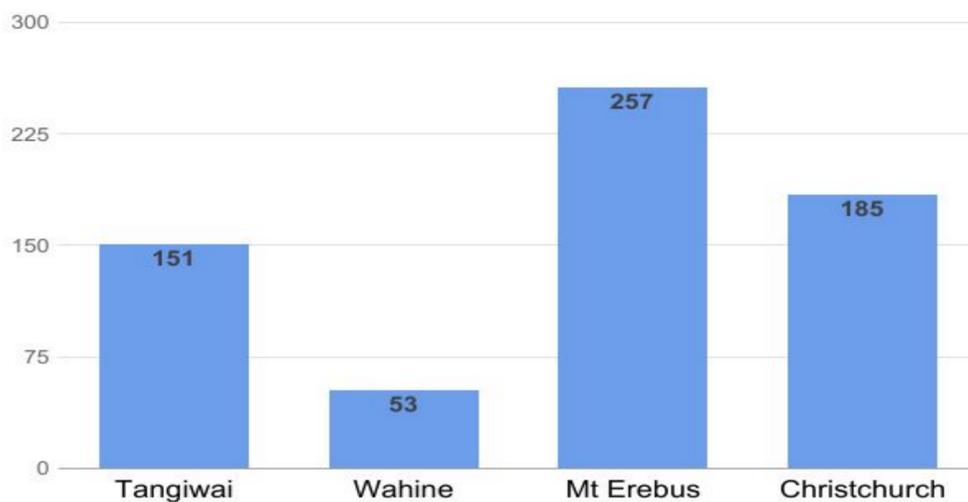
New Zealand has had few fatal disasters, given that earthquakes are a common occurrence. Since 1960 there have been more than 28,000 earthquakes of magnitude 4 and above. Yet very few of them have resulted in natural disasters.



### The Top Contenders

# 646

Total deaths in the top 4 worst disasters in NZ



# \$40bn

Estimated rebuild cost for Christchurch earthquake (2011)

### Tangiwai Disaster-(1953)



- The **Tangiwai rail disaster** occurred on the 24th of December, 1953 at precisely 10:21pm
- There was not much damage done by the train considering it was the weather that had the biggest effect
- The Whangaehu River bridge collapsed beneath a Wellington to Auckland train in Tangiwai, New Zealand
- The driver of this train didn't know what was coming up ahead until he saw it. The pier had folded inward and fell deep into the ocean. The train shot off the end and into the water
- <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/culture/the-tangiwai-railway-disaster>

### Wahine Disaster-(1968)



- On the 10th of April 1968, the sinking of the **Lyttelton-Wellington ferry Wahine** occurred
- It crashed into a nearby barrier reef and the propellers started to slow down and eventually stopped
- 51 people lost their lives that day and another 2 people a few days later from injuries that occurred on the boat wreck
- Footage recorded from that day was shown and was a media spotlight for all over the world.
- <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/wahine-disaster-rescue-story>
- <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/culture/wahine-disaster>
- <https://my.christchurchcitylibraries.com/wahine/>

### Mount Erebus Air Crash-(1979)



- The **Mount Erebus air crash**, Air NZ flight 901 was scheduled to be a beautiful sight-seeing flight for the 257 passengers boarding
- It occurred on the 28th of November 1979. The pilot (Jim Collins) wanted to give his passengers the full Antarctic experience, but because Mount Ross was covered with over 2000 feet of snow, Jim was supposed to follow a route around the mountain so his passengers could still get a view of what they paid to see
- The route was messed up when the connection was lost with the person looking after the mountain and flights that come past it.
- The plane went up to go over and around Mount Erebus at an amazing speed but it wasn't fast enough. Flight 901 flew straight into Mount Erebus and exploded
- <http://www.erebus.co.nz/background/history.aspx>

### Christchurch Earthquake-(2011)



- On Tuesday the 22nd of February 2011, a large **earthquake** with the magnitude of 6.3 and depth of 5km struck **Christchurch and Lyttelton, NZ**
- The earthquake caused a mass amount of damage and many buildings were completely destroyed
- <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/page/christchurch-earthquake-kills-185>

### References

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<http://www.erebus.co.nz/resources/photogallery/tabid/290/albumid/1036-41/default.aspx>

### Conclusion

While the Mount Erebus air crash was the worst disaster for deaths, the Christchurch earthquake was the biggest/worst for finance loss. The tangiwai rail disaster did not make that much mess, unlike the Christchurch earthquake that is still trying to be fixed today. There are a lot of buildings that are still destroyed.

### Death percentages (of how many people were there)

- Tangiwai disaster-151 deaths-85.79%
- Wahine disaster-53 deaths-7.2%
- Mt Erebus air crash-257 deaths-100%
- Christchurch earthquake-185-0.0503%

