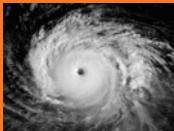


# Disasters this Week – May 18, 2012

*Headlines of Major Natural Events in the Americas this Week*



**Organization of  
American States**

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## Recent Natural Events

### **Peru – heavy rains**

Between January and 11 May 2012 intense rains have caused mudslides and overflowing of rivers, resulting in a death toll of 49 and affecting some 783,930 people, of which, more than 269,270 are homeless. [Read](#)

### **Worst flooding in 100 years hits Manaus, Brazil**

Brazil's Amazon city of Manaus has been hit by the worst flooding in 100 years, crippling the local economy and displacing thousands of families in the country's northwestern region. [Read](#)

### **Northern Brazil - Worst drought in 50 years takes toll**

A severe drought is affecting more than 1,100 towns in northeastern Brazil, where short water supplies have devastated farm output, endangering the lives of local people and their livestock. 'Water wars' are observed in rural areas. [Read](#)

### **Panama - seismic activity of magnitude 4.9 and depth 10.30Km [Read](#)**

## Other Disasters Related News

### **Looming drought in the Caribbean**

In Guyana, Agriculture Minister Robert Persaud says that authorities have spent \$1.2M to improve irrigation and to pump water into farmlands that are feeling the effects of largely absent year end rains. [Read](#)

### **Rebuilding Joplin a year after tornado**

A year ago this week, miles of homes and businesses were flattened by the enormous multivortex storm, one of the worst recorded in U.S. history. Neighborhoods, schools and communities were literally blown away. [Read](#)

### **IOM Colombia hosts Fourth International Conference on Gender and Disasters**

Delegates acknowledged the role of women in protecting the rights of children, elderly persons and people with disabilities and the limitations this situation poses to their response capacity and the possibility to migrate in search of work after an emergency. [Read](#)

### **Bolivian Civil Defense implements emergency recovery project**

The 6 month project will cover the municipalities of Chipaya, El Choro, Toledo y Soracachi of the Department of Oruro, with a budget of 200,000 Euros. [Read](#)

### **Mexico - Modernization of National Meteorological Service for improved Climate Change Adaptation**

The National Meteorological Service (SMN, in Spanish) modernization plan includes activities such as institutional redesign, human resource recruitment and training, the installation of modernized infrastructure and

improvements in the climate modeling tools used to generate weather forecasts and alerts. [Read](#)

*On behalf of the **Section for Risk Management and Adaptation to Climate Change, RISK-MACC**, Department of Sustainable Development, Executive Secretariat for Integral Development, General Secretariat of the Organization of American States  
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