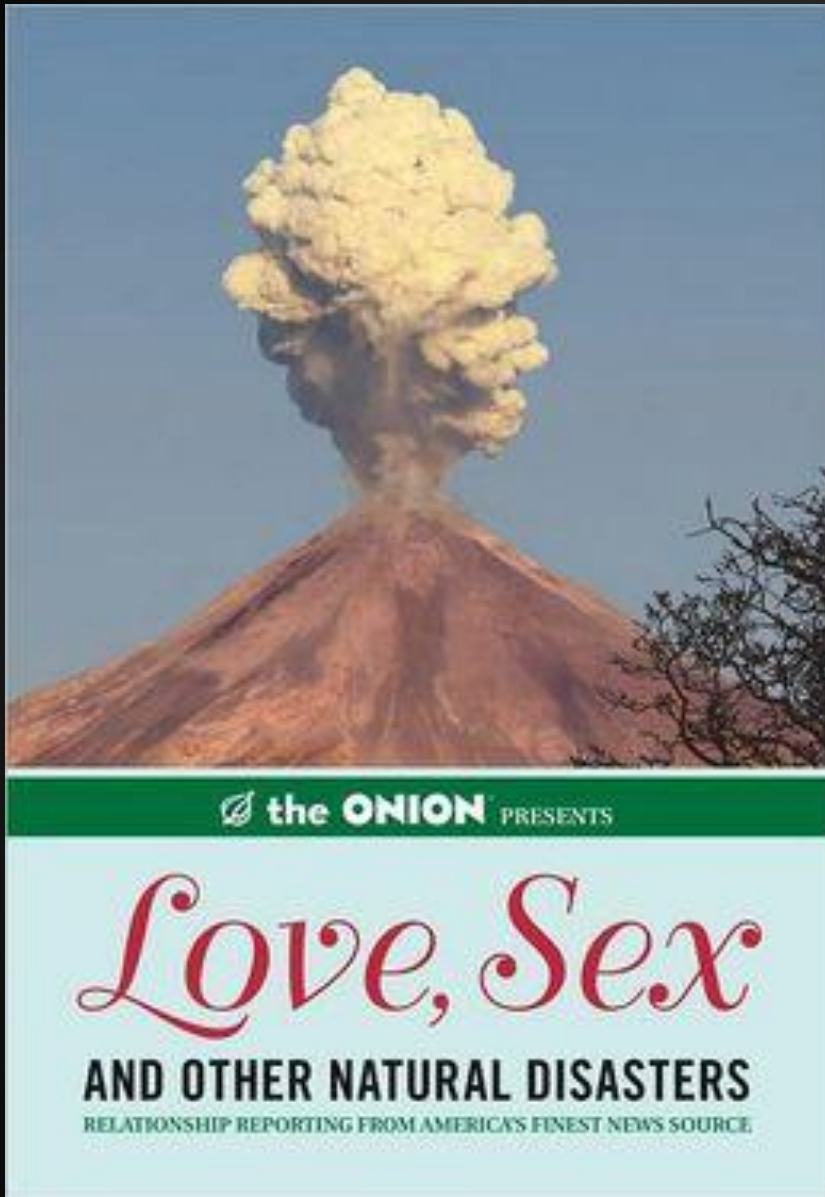# Examples of top-notch CAR following disasters

Ben Poston
Los Angeles Times
@bposton

Disaster X just happened ...

You want to go beyond the episodic coverage.

What do you do?

Panic?

Flail?

Call in sick?

It's OK.

Here are some examples of good CAR to ease your worried mind

Bridges

You can get data from your state or National Bridge Inventory. You can see if the bridge was rated structurally deficient or obsolete.

State should also have inspection records.

Example: After I-35W bridge collapsed …

I-35W bridge collapsed in Minneapolis in 2007

Dams

Again, check the state and federal records - National Dam Inventory. You can also see the last time they were inspected.

Examples: Taum Sauk dam in Missouri

Flooding

WYNC Sandy interactive mapping examples on [evacuation zones](#) and [flood zones](#)

Tornadoes

NOAA's [Storm Prediction Center](#) has historical data on every tornado, hail or high wind event since the 1950s.

- [Map tornado activity](#)

- [Map tornado sirens](#)
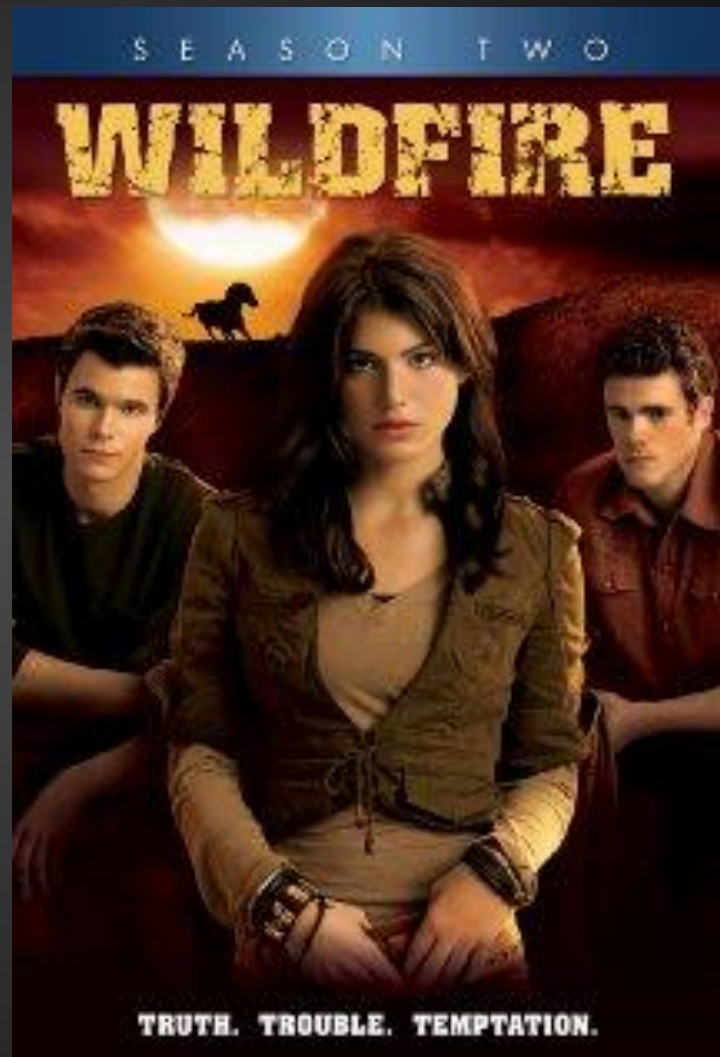
Earthquakes

L.A. Times data desk uses an email blast from the U.S. Geological Survey to produce [automated blog posts](#)

That data gets dumped into a database so we can provide context when the next big one hits.

Wildfires

National Public Radio - nationwide map

Mapping a wildfire on the fly with Google Maps:

LA Times example

Hurricanes

Power failures after Hurricane Sandy - NY Times

Path of the storm - Sun-Sentinel example

Droughts

Tracking [droughts over the years](#) - NY Times

"Drought extends, crops wither" [interactive](#)