READING

NATURAL DISASTERS AND CRIME

Fires, floods, tornadoes and other natural disasters can be good opportunities for criminals. They know people often leave their homes quickly and leave many of their possessions behind.

In August 2005, there was a big hurricane in the USA. Around 1.5 million people from Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana left their homes before the hurricane started. According to police officers, there were nearly 1,000 criminal incidents during the hurricane. While people were trying to get to a safe place, criminals were stealing possessions from their homes. This also happened in Colorado during the Waldo Canyon forest fire in 2012. The police reported 42 home robberies in 10 days.

After the tsunami in Thailand in 2004, there were reports of gang crime and robberies. In one particular case, criminals put on police uniforms and went into hotels around Khao Lak. While the real police officers were solving crimes, the other "police officers" were stealing clothes, money, documents and other possessions from the victims' hotel rooms.

Of course, the most important thing during a natural disaster is to save your life, but you can protect your possessions, too. For example, you should always keep your important documents in a safe place, so you can find them easily and take them with you. You should also close your doors and turn on any security devices, like alarms or home cameras. That way, even in a disaster, you can return home afterwards, keeping you, your family and all your possessions safe.

Decide if the sentences are T (true), F (false) or DS (doesn't say).

1. Natural disasters make it difficult for criminals to steal. T F DS
2. The hurricane in the USA in 2005 was called Katrina. T F DS
3. There was a bad forest fire in Colorado in 2012. T F DS
4. There was less crime in Thailand after the tsunami in 2004. T F DS
5. Police officers in Thailand stole clothes, money and other possessions while they were solving crimes. T F DS

Answer the questions.

1. Why don't people take their possessions with them when they leave their homes?
2. What were people doing when criminals stole their possessions during the hurricane?
3. What happened during the 10 days of the forest fire in Colorado?
4. What types of crimes were reported after the tsunami in Thailand?
5. What did the criminals do before going into hotels in Khao Lak?

LIVEWORKSHEETS