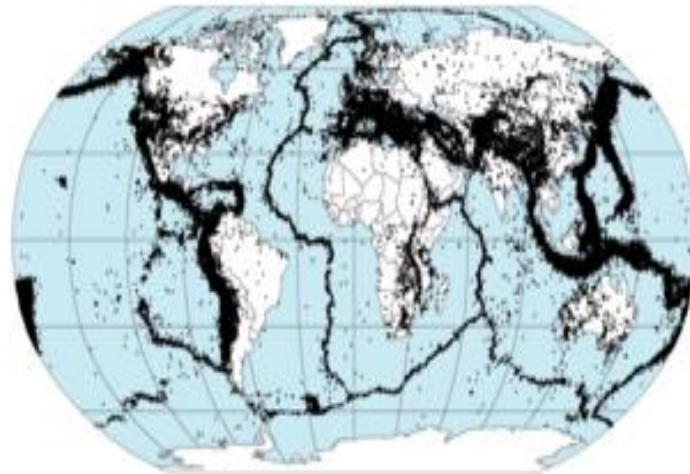


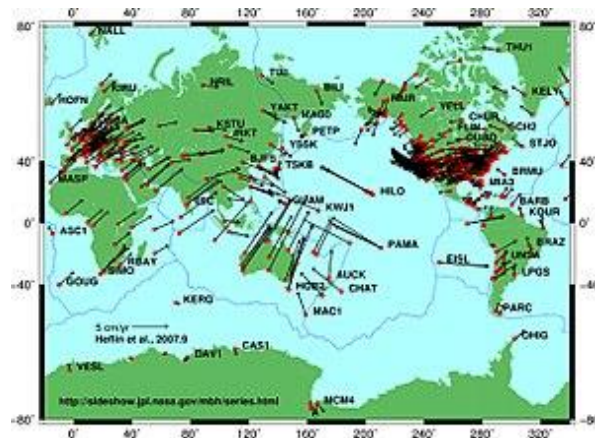
Natural disasters

In the recent years, our country has suffered from minimal natural phenomena, and to be exact, we have faced a lot of powerful storms, and a great number of earthquakes. This has led to disastrous results for our farmers, as their annual crops have been ruined. Our village, Palaiochora, which is located 77 km from Chania and right next to the shore of the Libyan Sea, has mostly faced robust earthquakes due to its seismicity.

Preliminary Determination of Epicenters
358,214 Events, 1963 - 1998



Palaiochora may be regarded as one of the most seismological regions in Greece. On top of that it also faces tsunami risk due to its proximity to the Libyan Sea.



What Can Cause a Tsunami in Palaiochora?

Greece combines lots of water, many islands, broken and shallow seafloor, and volcanic activity. Unfortunately, these are ideal conditions for tsunamis. The tragic Indonesian tsunami focused attention on these powerful and often deadly waves.

Natural disasters

While Greece, in the Mediterranean, was safe from that wave, it inspired renewed efforts on the part of the Greek government to develop a tsunami warning system which is not yet fully deployed.

Though, it is quite rare for such a natural disaster to happen in our country and specifically in **Palaiochora** (in Crete), if the conditions are right, such a tragedy can occur.

If a tsunami was to form in **Palaiochora**, the consequences would be horrific. Some of these would be:

1) Death

2)The whole town would flood

3)The buildings would be destroyed

4)The green-houses would be demolished

As a result of all these, the economy would go on a huge downhill, and many people's property would be potentially destroyed and most importantly their lives would be ruined.



Natural disasters

PROTECTION MEASUREMENTS FROM NATURAL DISASTERS

There are many ways that we can protect us and our beloved ones from natural disasters (for example earthquakes and tsunamis). Firstly, about earthquakes, if we are in-door, we must keep our cool and seek shelter underneath stable tables or sturdy furniture. If we are outside, we need to stay away from buildings, bridges and electricity pylons and move to open areas. We should avoid areas at risk from secondary processes, such as landslides and rockfall. After an earthquake, it's good to check gas, water, electricity pipes and lines for damage, plus it's important to listen to the radio and follow the instructions issued by the authorities. Usually tsunamis are happening after an earthquake so when the earthquake is on the way we should move away from the coast. If authorities warn us or we have reason to believe a tsunami is imminent, for safety we can climb to higher ground or higher floors, at least 30 meters above sea level. If we see the sea recede, we must put as much distance and height between ourselves and the waterline as possible. We must not return to the potentially threatened areas until authorities indicate the danger has passed. In Palaiochora there is a sea level station which consists of instruments that can predict when a tsunami is about to happen.

