



Each year, millions of people around the world are affected by water shortages and droughts. Many people in poor countries die each year either from a lack of water or from polluted water. In wealthy countries, water shortages can result in crop failures. When this happens, food prices increase, causing problems of a different kind.

And finally, in the future there may be the problem of water wars. As clean water becomes less available, people may start to fight for it. Imagine not having safe, clean water flowing from your faucet or shower – no easy access to water to drink, to cook with, to wash, or to clean your clothes. Humans need water to survive. If one day it becomes a less plentiful resource, we may have a terrible crisis on our hands.

Avalanches are another example of the dangerous force of water in its solid form, as snow and ice. Avalanches occur when large quantities of snow fall down a mountain or hillside. Avalanches can bury skiers and buildings – and sometimes whole villages!

Too much water can cause disasters, but so can a lack of water. A drought occurs when there is not enough water, and it can be as serious a problem as flooding, maybe more serious.

