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Definition of national disaster extended

BAGAN SERAI, Sun. - The definition of a national disaster has been extended to cover collapse of high-rise buildings, fire at high-rise buildings and air crashes affecting buildings and public places.

It also includes train accidents and derailments; industrial accidents such as fire, pollution and leakage of dangerous chemicals and nuclear and radioactive leakages.

Also included is the occurrence of haze that could affect the smooth running of the Government's administration and national economic activities; collapse of hydro dams, flood, landslide, dry spell and storm.

Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob, who is also National Disaster Management and Relief Committee chairman, said the move to extend the definition was made after a suggestion by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in 1993.

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