

**Table I.** *Description of the different types of disaster (Mantovani et al. 1998b).*

| Natural disasters                                       | Technological disasters                       |
|---|---|
| Earthquake  | Leaks and chemical contamination              |
| Flood   | Joints of radioactive materials               |
| Avalanches and landslides                               | Large-scale intoxication                      |
| Exceptional snowfall                                    | Explosions                                    |
| Fires   | Massive accidents                             |
| Volcanic eruptions                                      | Collapse of dams                              |
| Storms and tidal waves                                  | Massive movements of populations and refugees |
| Hurricanes  |   |
| Typhoons  |   |
| Massive invasions of wild and / or synanthropic animals |   |
| Drought and famine                                      |   |