

Quantitative Risk Analysis (QRA)



Timpanogos Cave National Monument

Unstable Slope Management Program



credits

Map

Slope Rating Form

New Slope Event

Maintenance Form

QRA

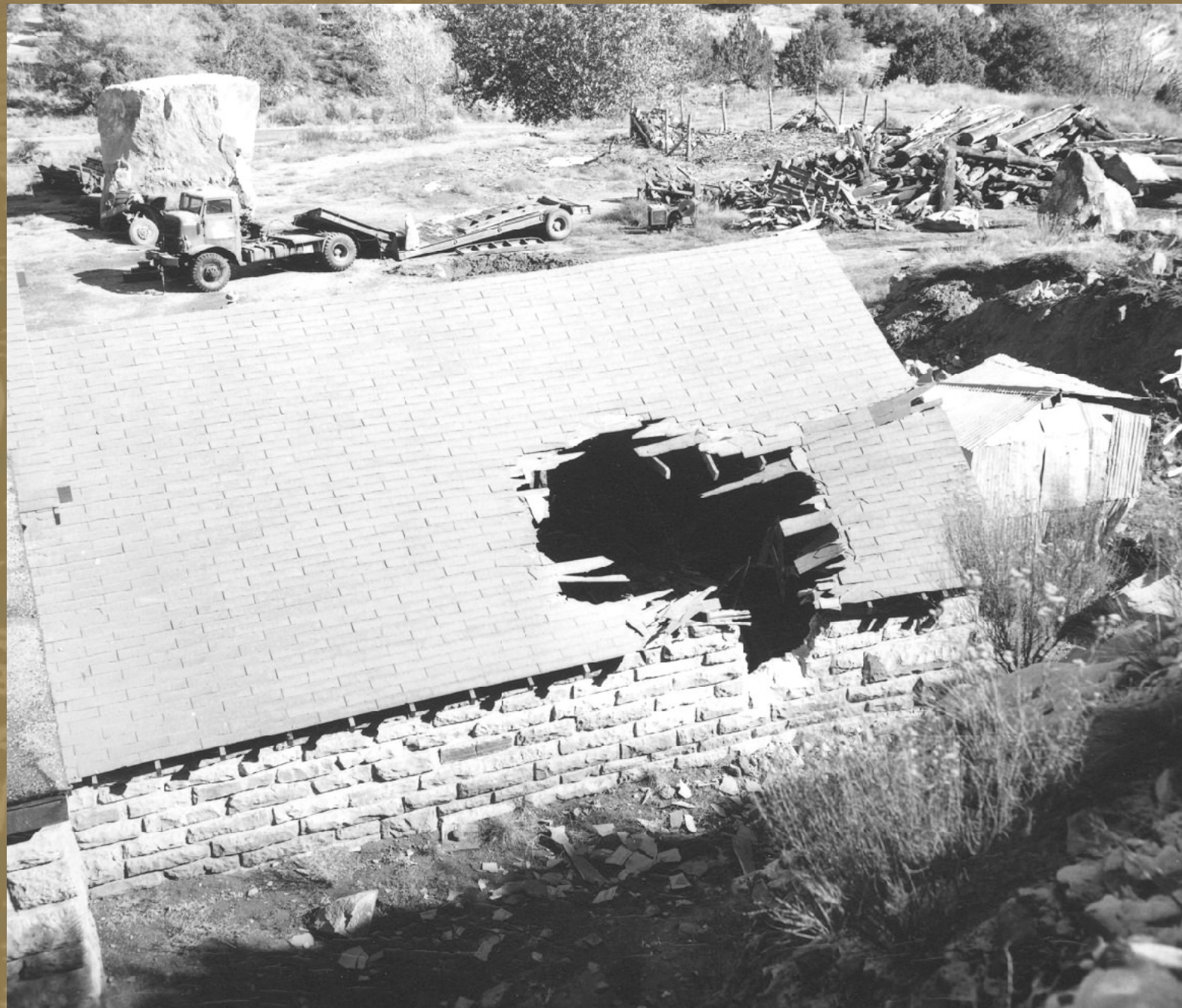
Account

Logout

- The QRA is a module within the USMP.
- It is another decision-support tool.
- QRA can be used to further prioritize slopes, as part of a benefit-cost analysis, or as a stand alone module.
- The QRA uses numerical estimates of severity, probability, and exposure to place estimated risk into a societal context.

What is hazard?

What is risk?



1947

Zion National Park



2010

Hazard: Something that poses a theoretical possibility of harm to life, health, property or environment.

Risk: Is a probability. Risk takes into account the probability that a certain event will occur and what the consequence is if the hazard is realized.

Occurrence = two events in 63 years

Consequence =



Zion National Park

Slope Hazard Quantitative Risk Estimate

Places estimated risk from a perceived hazard into a societal context.

General Risk Equation:

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Annual Individual Fatality or Injury Risk} \\ &= \\ &\quad \text{probability of occurrence} - P_{(\text{occ})} \\ &\quad \times \\ &\quad \text{probability of being affected by the event} - P_{(\text{loc})} \\ &\quad \times \\ &\quad \text{probability of people being in the hazard zone} - P_{(\text{pres})} \\ &\quad \times \\ &\quad \text{probability of a fatal consequence or injury} - P_{(\text{vul})} \end{aligned}$$

This kind of problem is a form of a Fermi estimate

This risk estimate equation is far from unique.

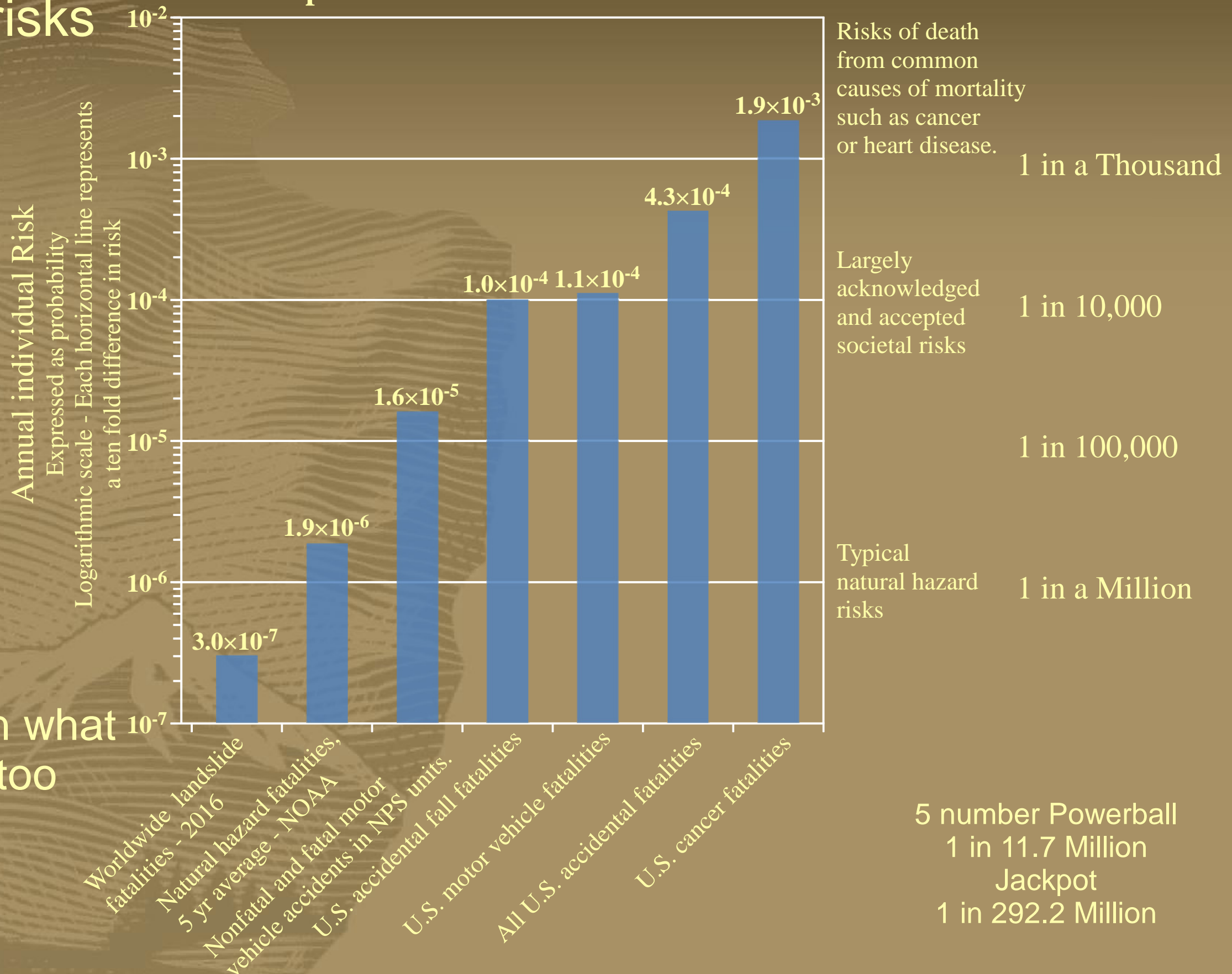
- Australian Geomechanics Society
- Used to evaluate rockfall risk following the 2010 and 2011 Chirstchurch, NZ earthquakes (Massey et al., 2012, 2014).



Main drawback: Some factors may need to be estimated
Main benefit: Risk related to rockfall or landslides can be compared with other societal risks, even back-of-the-envelope estimates are useful.

Societal risks

Comparison of annual individual risk



No policy on what risk level is too high

CHCU



DINO

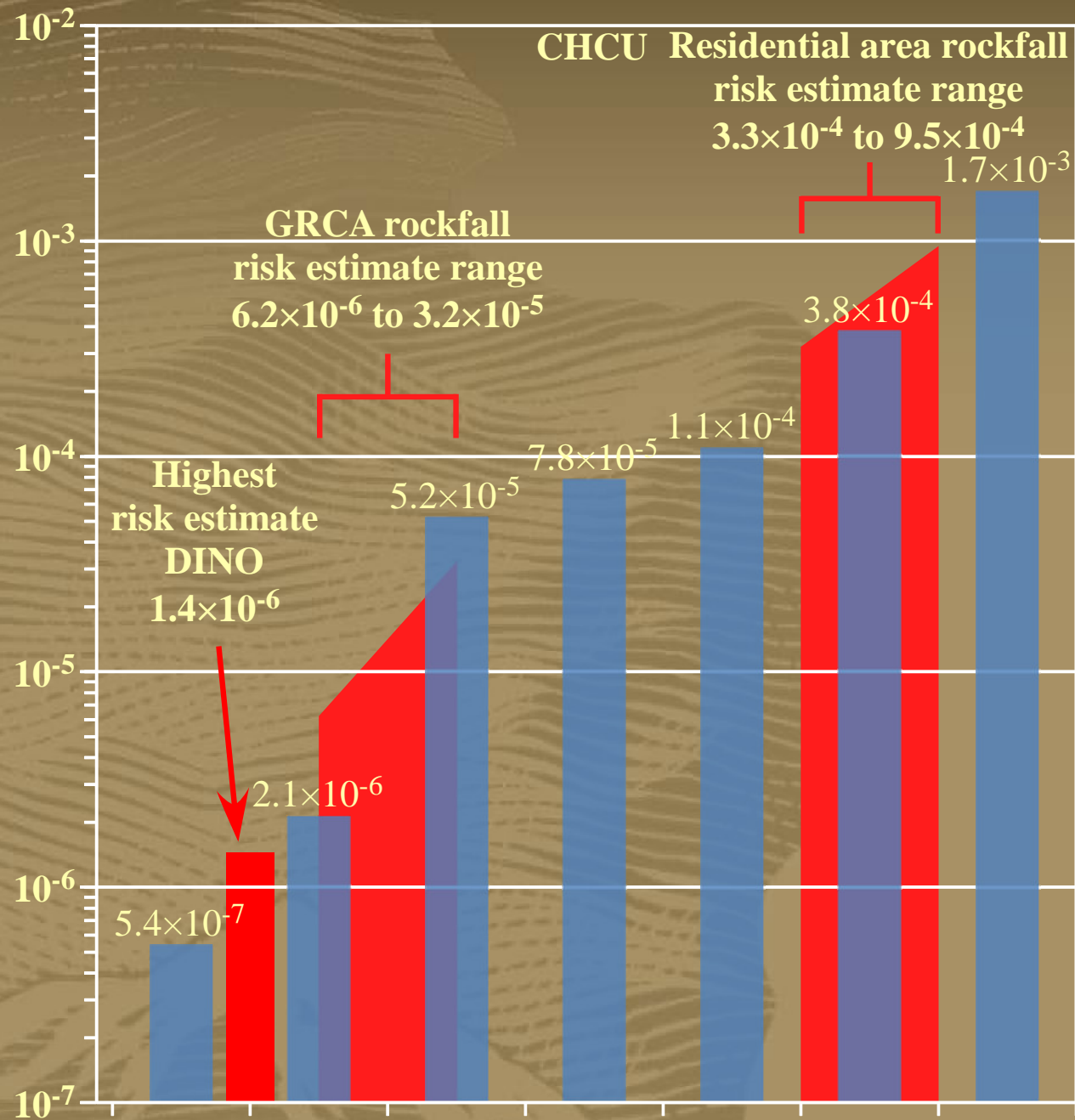


GRCA



Comparison of annual individual fatality risk

Annual individual fatality Risk
Expressed as probability
Logarithmic scale - Each horizontal line represents
a ten fold difference in risk



Risks of death from common causes of mortality such as cancer or heart disease.

1 in a Thousand

Largely acknowledged and accepted societal risks

1 in 10,000

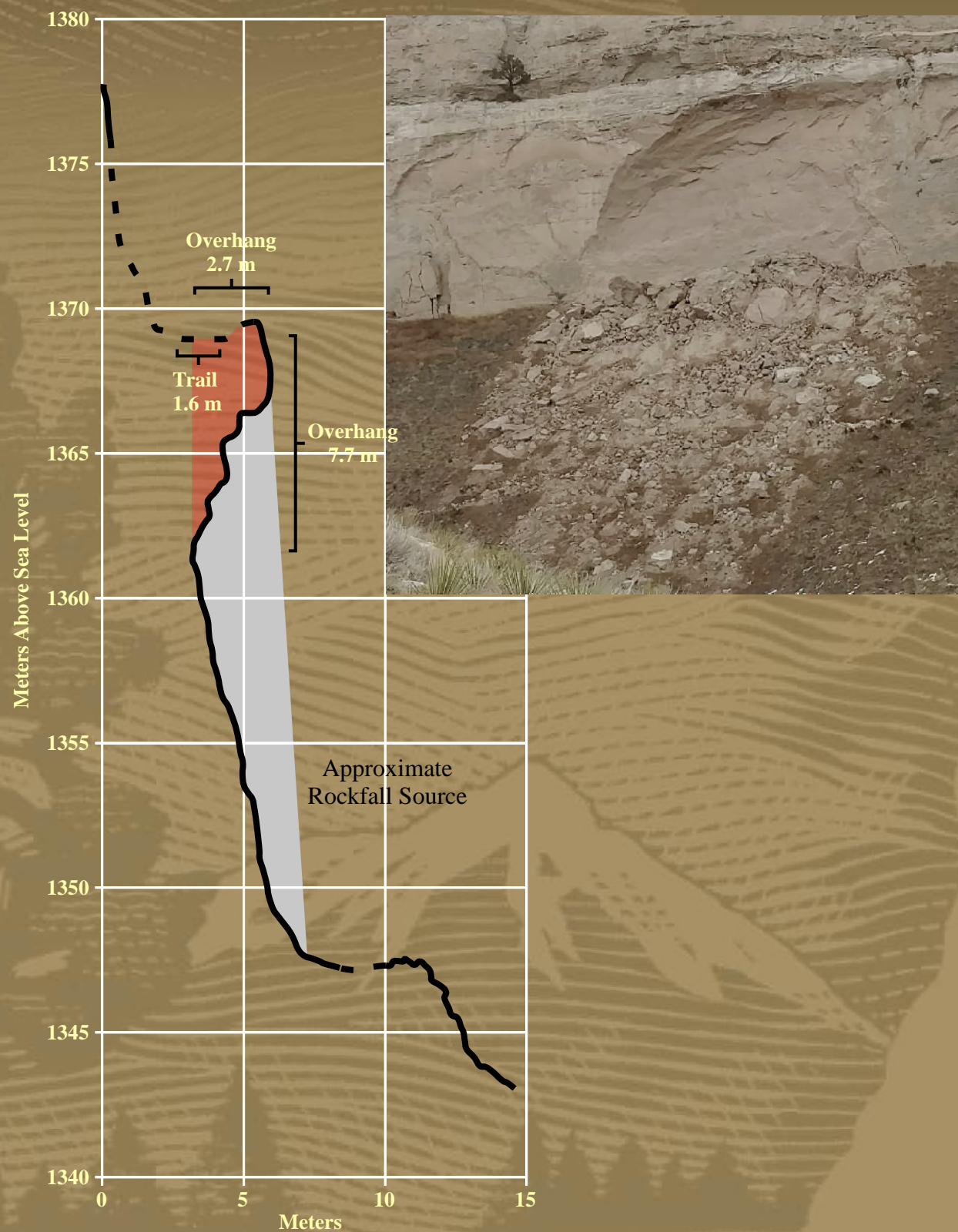
1 in 100,000

Typical natural hazard risks

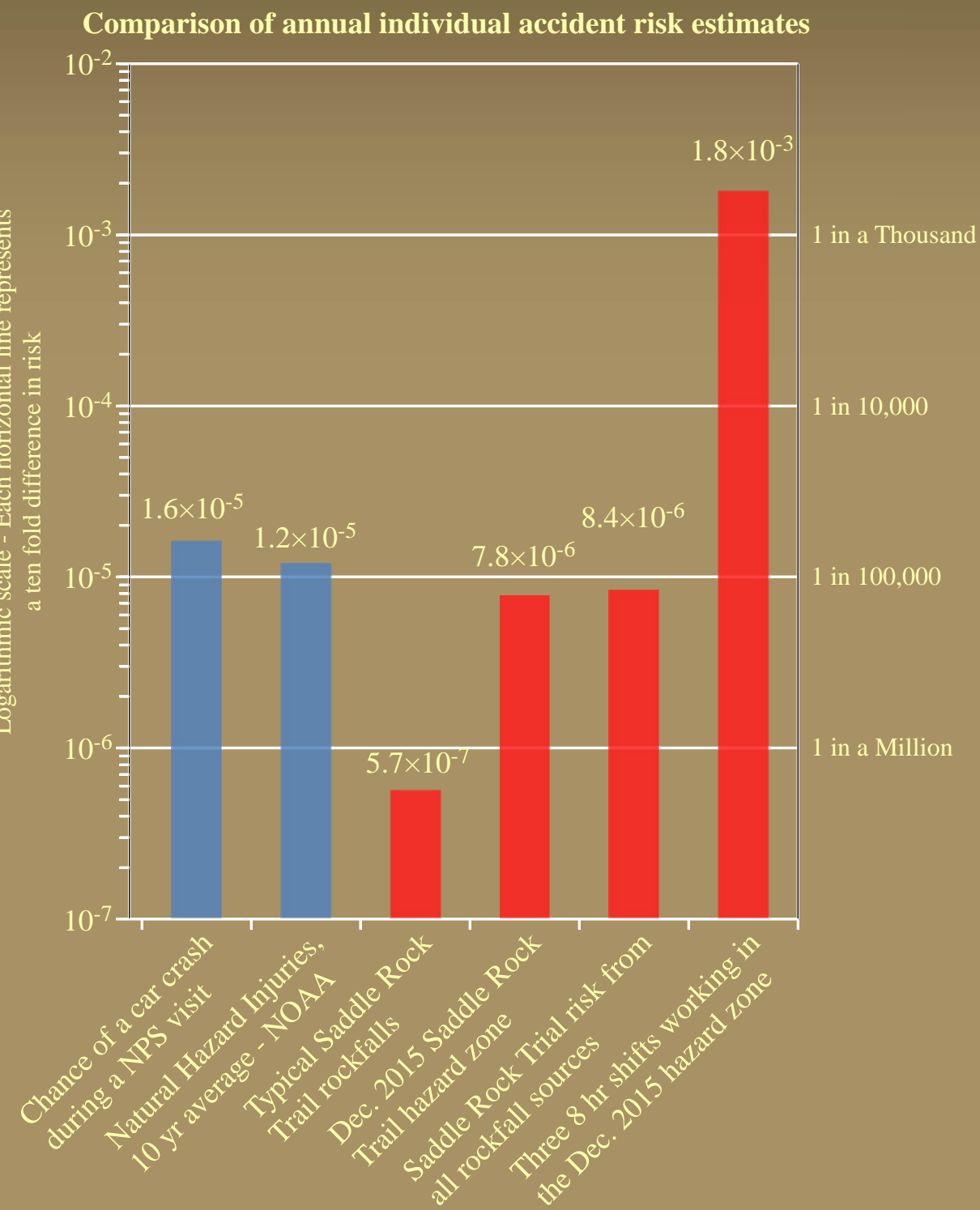
1 in a Million

5 number Powerball
1 in 11.7 Million
Jackpot
1 in 292.2 Million

Scotts Bluff National Monument



Annual individual accident risk
Expressed as probability
Logarithmic scale - Each horizontal line represents
a ten fold difference in risk



Slope Hazard Quantitative Risk Estimate Work Sheet

Unstable Slope Management Program

[Map](#) [Slope Rating Form](#) [New Slope Event](#) [Maintenance Form](#) [QRA](#) [Account](#) [Logout](#)

Annual Individual Risk

Hazard Zone Attributes

Hazard zone name (for display in P_{AIR} graph):

Form units ☒ US ☐ Metric

Length of hazard zone (length affected roadway, trail, or other area) (ft):

Do most people travel the hazard zone once or twice (round trip) during a typical visit to the area? ☒ One way ☐ Two way

Average travel speed (mph) ([Average walking pace is 2.73 mph](#)):

Stopping Sight Distance (SSD) added to the length of the hazard zone at speeds above 15 km/h or 9.3 mph.

SSD equation from the National Cooperative Highway Research Program Report 400 (1997)

Probability of Occurrence (P_{occ}) Probability of an unstable slope event being triggered by an earthquake.		Probability of an unstable slope event not triggered by an earthquake	Probability of an unstable slope event triggering earthquake
Recurrence Interval: Number of events or event probability within <input type="text"/> years.		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	P_{occ} :	NaN	NaN

Seismic Hazard - Ground motions trigger rockfall and landslides.

<https://earthquake.usgs.gov/hazards/interactive/>

☐ Input

Edition

Dynamic: Conterminous U.S. 2014 (v4.1.0)

Spectral Period

Peak ground acceleration

Location

Latitude
Decimal degrees

40.43908

Longitude
Decimal degrees, negative values for western longitudes

-111.708801

[Choose location using a map](#)

Site Class

760 m/s (B/C boundary)

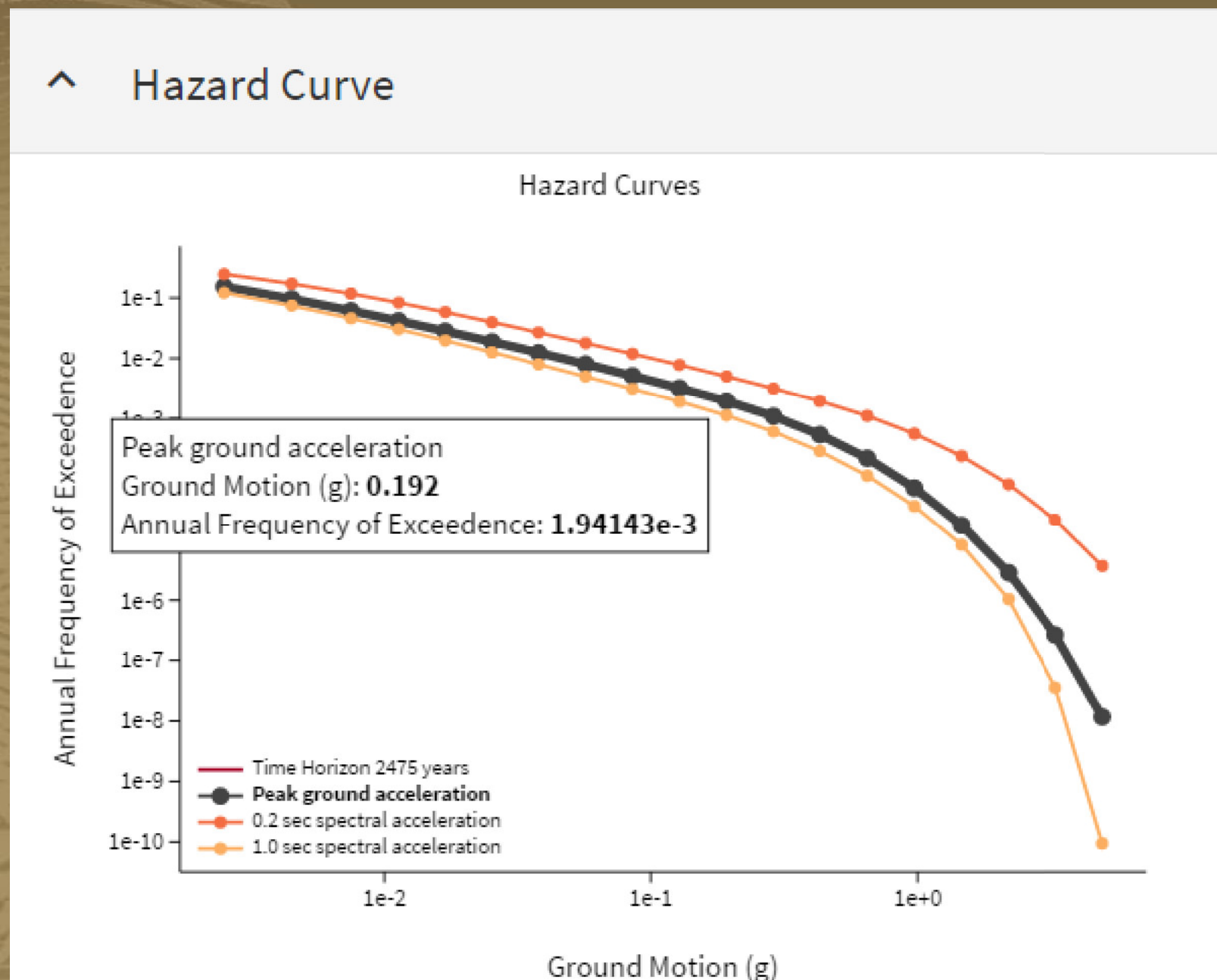
Time Horizon
Return period in years

2475

2% in 50 years
(2,475 years)

10% in 50 years
(475 years)

Use USGS hazard curve to find the probability of greater than 0.2g



Mackey, B. H., & Quigley, M. C., 2014. Strong proximal earthquakes revealed by cosmogenic ^3He dating of prehistoric rockfalls, Christchurch, New Zealand. *Geology*, 42(11), 975-978.

Massey, C. I., McSaveney, M. J., Heron, D., & Lukovic, B., 2012. Canterbury Earthquakes 2010/11 Port Hills slope stability: Pilot study for assessing life-safety risk from rockfalls (boulder rolls), GNS Science Consultancy Report 2011/311.

Massey, C. I., McSaveney, M. J., Taig, T., Richards, L., Litchfield, N. J., Rhoades, D. A., McVerry, G. H., Lukovic, B., Heron, D. W., Ries, W., & Van Dissen, R. J., 2014. Determining rockfall risk in Christchurch using rockfalls triggered by the 2010-2011 Canterbury earthquake sequence, New Zealand. *Earthquake Spectra*, 30, 155-181.

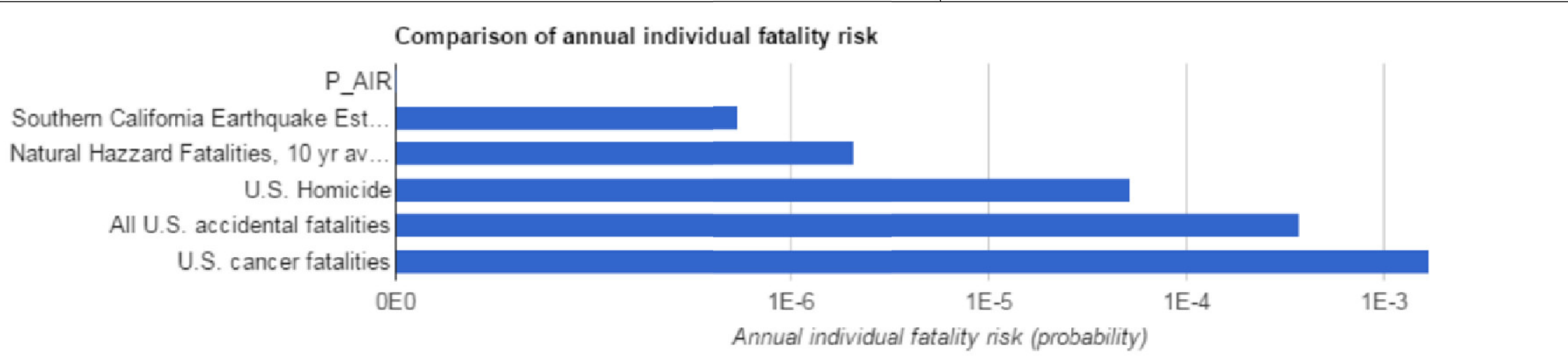
Probability of Location (P_{loc}) The probability of a person, if present in the hazard zone, being acted on by the unstable slope event.		Non-earthquake Trigger (P_{loc})	Earthquake Trigger (P_{loc})
Rockfall (manually entered probability)/Landslide (100%): <input checked="" type="radio"/> Rockfall <input type="radio"/> Landslide			
Boulder size (ft):		<input type="text" value="0.000"/>	<input type="text" value="0.000"/>
Number of boulders:		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	P_{loc} :	<input type="text" value="0.00e+0"/>	<input type="text" value="0.00e+0"/>
Occupancy time (P_{pres}) The amount of time a person spends in the hazard zone.		Non-earthquake Trigger P_{pres}	Earthquake Trigger P_{pres}
Use <input checked="" type="radio"/> calculated travel time, or <input type="radio"/> minutes per year: <input type="text"/>			
	P_{pres} :	<input type="text" value="NaN"/>	<input type="text" value="NaN"/>
Probability of Vulnerability (P_{vul}) Probability of a person being killed or injured by an unstable slope event or an asset being damaged by an unstable slope event.		Non-earthquake Trigger P_{vul}	Earthquake Trigger P_{vul}
Vulnerability of death or injury: (1 equals 100 percent chance of death injury or damage)		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	P_{vul} :	<input type="text" value="NaN"/>	<input type="text" value="NaN"/>

10-20 Kilojoule rockfall probably fatal.
 1 ft rock (146 lb) dropped from 55 ft

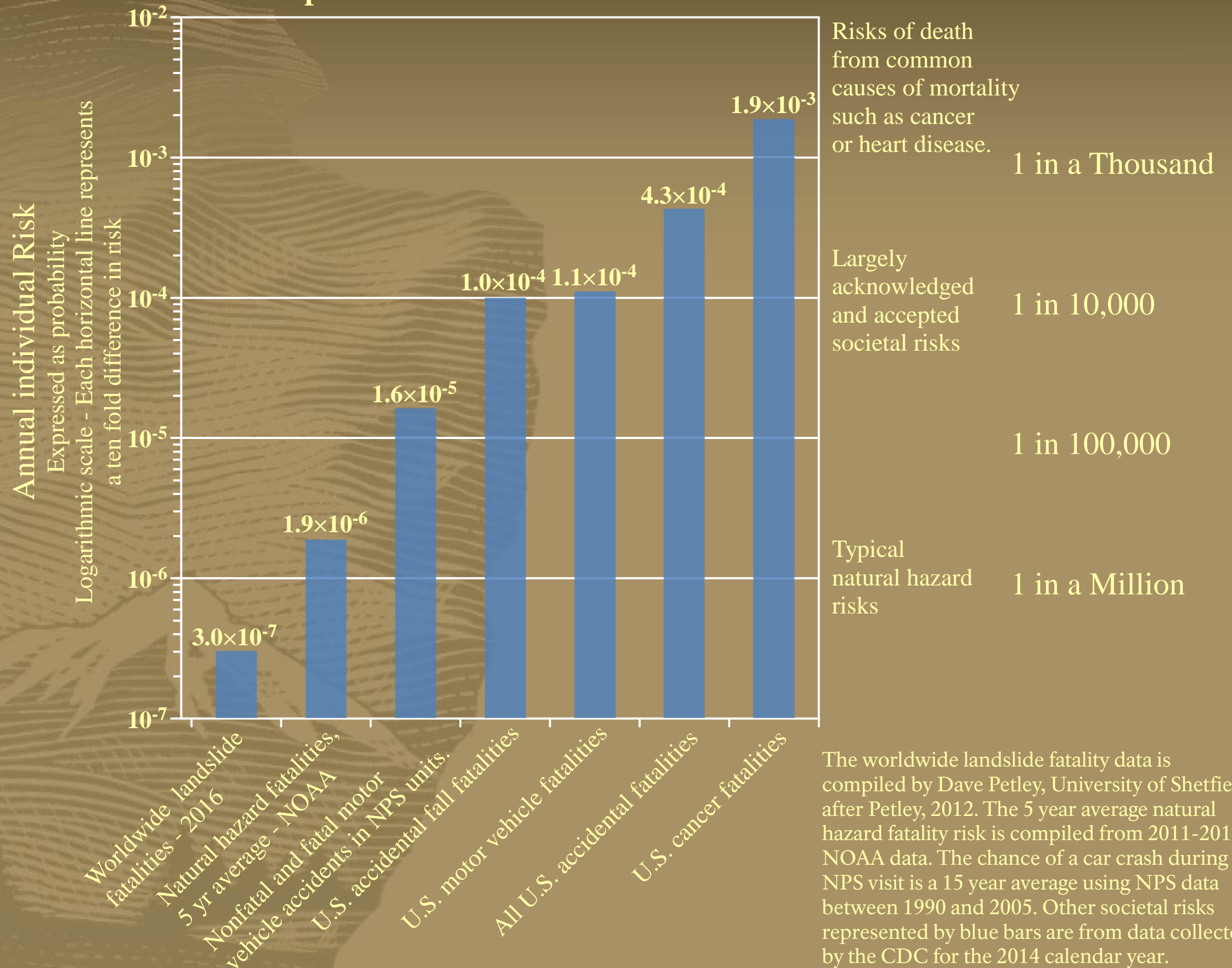
Oso landslide, WA 43 people killed, 74% (0.74) chance of fatality

Annual Individual Risk (P_{AIR}) The annual probability of an individual being killed or injured in an unstable slope event.		Non-earthquake Trigger	Earthquake Trigger
	P_{AIR} :	NaN	NaN
	Annual P_{AIR} of background, or Earthquake: Non-earthquake or earthquake trigger.	NaN	

Comparison with probabilities of other events		
Event name	Probability	In 10,000
Southern California Earthquake Estimate	5.4e-7	5.4e-3
Natural Hazzard Fatalities, 10 yr average - NOAA	2.1e-6	2.1e-2
U.S. Homicide	5.2e-5	5.2e-1
All U.S. accidental fatalities	3.8e-4	3.8e-0
U.S. cancer fatalities	1.7e-3	1.7e1
Show <input checked="" type="radio"/> probability, or <input type="radio"/> ratio.		



Comparison of annual individual risk



Risk Reduction Cost/Benefit Analysis

Only for estimates of mortality.

Value of a Statistical Life (VSL) based on a [USDOT](#) estimate (USD):

Number of People visiting the hazard zone per year:

Value an individual would asses to reduce estimated annual risk of death from the hazard to less than 1 in a Million (USD):

NaN

Value assessed to reduce the estimated annual risk of death from the hazard to less than 1 in a Million for all the individuals who visit the hazard zone (USD):

NaN

Risk Reduction Cost/Benefit Analysis

The benefit of preventing a fatality can be measured by:

“Value of a Statistical Life”
(VSL)

VSL in 2017 dollars ~ \$9.6 million
(US DOT VSL Guidance 2013)

This is a valuation in the reduction in risk.

Example



Point Reyes National Seashore
Fatal bluff collapse on March 21st, 2015

Arch Rock

After dilation cracks
appeared - high probability
of failure within a month.
30 m hazard zone.
30 minutes on the point.
50% chance of mortality.

AIRD about
1 in 3,000

3.4×10^{-4}

Higher than vehicle accidents

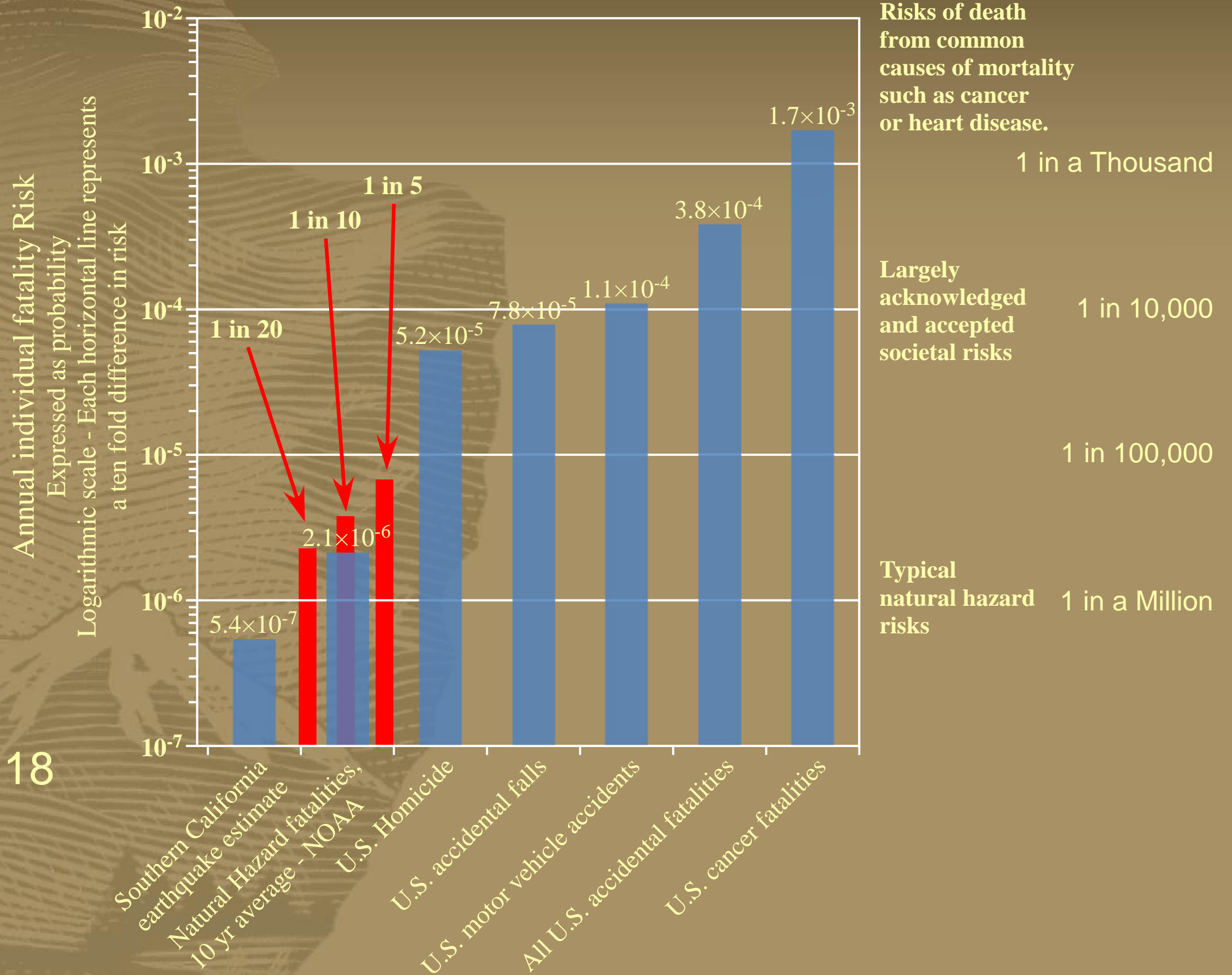
Monthly valuation of reducing
the risk is estimated at about:
\$557,000

If 2,000 people spend 30 min
at the point a month.



Arch Rock Remaining Hazard

Comparison of annual individual fatality risk



1 in 6 - 1 in 18
Closure
Monitoring

Questions?

