

off the fence.

History Retold

3 x 60'

EPISODIC BREAKDOWN

1. Fire At Sea

The sea. Thousands upon thousands of miles of empty water. The world's oceans are as beautiful as they are deadly. If a ship encounters trouble far from land, there is little those onboard can do—except hope for rescue. Though sinking may seem to be the worst that can happen to a ship at sea, it's actually fire that creates the most horrific pain and suffering. A fire aboard ship is indiscriminate in its attack, taking the lives of everyone from immigrants seeking a new life to cruise ship elite looking for a good time on the waves. Throughout time there are thousands of stories of horrific fires at sea. The images that tell their tales are remarkable, haunting, and rarely seen. Now, with restored film footage and high definition photo technology, we can look deep inside these seagoing stories of heroism and tragedy to fully understand what happens aboard ship when there is a fire at sea. Because not only does a fire at sea mean a ship is going down, but passengers and crew have two choices: be burned alive or jump into an unforgiving ocean.

2. Early Air Disasters

In the first part of the 20th century, a seeming miracle took place. Humans learned how to fly. But the quest to reach for the skies came with tremendous danger. Events and circumstances that in an instant could turn deadly. Every time a new barrier was pushed, the limits of gravity pushed back harder, making every advancement in the world of aviation one that was paid for in blood. Whether it was just getting off the ground with powered engines, soaring aloft in massive balloons or airships, refueling mid-air, or attempting long distance journeys that seemed to guarantee disaster, early aviators were willing to take chances that few would ever try. The risks were many. Engines at the time often failed. Construction of aircraft was confusing and sometimes shoddy. Navigation across vast bodies of water, the most daring of all the feats in aviation, could turn someone into a hero, or put their name on a long list of aviators lost at sea. The harrowing tales of these aircrafts and their pilots are at once thrilling and heartbreaking. For every victory there was wrenching loss. For every minute pilots logged soaring above the clouds, there were moments when the planes, the pilots, and their dreams came crashing back to earth. Using restored film footage and high definition photographs, we tell the stories of the early years, when aviators put their lives on the line and captured the world's imagination.

3. Natural Disasters

They can turn bright blue skies dark as the night. They can, in an instant, make entire cities disappear. They can crush the human spirit with unflinching indifference. They are natural disasters — unforgiving forces of nature that bend steel, smash concrete and rip human bodies to shreds. Rampaging floods. Roiling Oceans. Boiling mountains of lava — the beauty of nature can turn on a dime, creating some of the most horrific events ever recorded in human history. Names like Vesuvius, Galveston, Johnstown are tragic reminders of a unbridled power unleashed without warning — destructive forces that can catch even the most wary souls off guard, wiping them from the face of the Earth. These monstrous spectacles are at once mesmerizing and haunting. The visual record left in their wake is like none other. Now using restored film footage and high-definition photos, we can dig deep beneath the madness — and the rubble — to explore what happens to cities, towns and people... when mother nature decides to let loose.