

1 I thank Referee#1 for his/her very useful comments. They allowed improving the manuscript. The  
2 reviewer's comments were taken into account in the revised version of the manuscript, as explained  
3 below. The reviewer's comments are in italics, the answers are in black and the changes made to the text  
4 are in red. The lines numbers refer to the lines numbers of the revised manuscript.

#### 5 **Answers to Reviewer#1 comments**

6 *In her paper the author describes an analysis of impacts to the Russian transportation infrastructure due*  
7 *to natural hazards. The analysis is based on a historical database with incidents between 1992 - 2018,*  
8 *which was developed by the author. Although the general topic of the paper is highly relevant for NHESS*  
9 *there are several major issues which need to be addressed before publication. The introduction section*  
10 *(section 1) provides an introduction to transportation infrastructure in general and related vulnerabilities*  
11 *due to natural hazards. This section does not have any scientific references related to possible*  
12 *classifications of transportation infrastructure (including subcategories) and natural hazards. For*  
13 *example it remains unclear why the author chose the natural hazard classification presented in figure 1*  
14 *and not other published classification schemes.*

15 Classification of the transport infrastructure of Russia, which is given in the manuscript, refers to the  
16 Federal Law "On Transport Security". This citation was included in the list of references.

17 Classification of natural hazards presented in figure 1 was proposed by the author. The explanation was  
18 included in the manuscript. The following paragraphs of the introduction section were modified:

19 "Natural processes and phenomena can be classified in various ways depending on the objectives of a  
20 study. Natural hazards can be typify according to their genetic features, the intensity of their  
21 manifestation, the main formation and development factors, characteristics of spatial distribution and  
22 mode, etc. (Malkhazova and Chalov, 2004).

23 Previously, two types of natural hazards were found, based on their genesis, distribution in space and  
24 time, and the impact pattern on the technosphere and society in populated areas (Petrova, 2005). In the  
25 context of the present study, the proposed classification scheme was adapted taking into account impacts  
26 of natural hazards on the transport infrastructure (Figure 1).

27 Solar and geomagnetic disturbances (space weather), geodynamics, geophysical and astrophysical field  
28 variations, and other global processes belong to the first group. They have global scale in space and cyclic  
29 development in time. Natural processes of this type may influence the transport infrastructure both  
30 directly, causing electronics error and automatic machinery failure, as well as indirectly, by affecting the  
31 nervous system of operators, drivers or pilots and thereby leading to a decrease in their reliability. Natural  
32 hazards of the second type are of more "earthly" origin, i.e. from the atmosphere, lithosphere,  
33 hydrosphere or biosphere. They vary greatly in their spatial scale and geographical location. This type of  
34 natural hazards includes earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, snow avalanches, hurricanes,  
35 windstorms, heavy rains, hail, lightning, snow and ice storms, temperature extremes, wild fires, floods,  
36 droughts, etc. Natural hazards belonging to this group cause a direct destructive effect leading to  
37 accidents and disruptions." - (Lines 360-380)

38 *The reference in line 33 is missing in the reference section. –*

39 The reference in line 33 was presented in the reference section as: Geography, society, environment,  
40 Collective monograph, v. 4: Natural and anthropogenic processes and environmental risk, Moscow,  
41 Gorodets Publishing House, 2004.

42 This reference was revised; the names of the editors were added: Malkhazova, S. M. and Chalov, R. S.  
43 (Eds.): Geography, Society and Environment. Vol. IV: Natural-Anthropogenic Processes and  
44 Environmental Risk, Gorodets Publishing House, Moscow, Russia, 2004.

45 *The literature review (line 55 ff) is quite comprehensive in the sense that it includes many references, but*  
46 *the analysis with respect to the presented study is very rough and lacks detail. Just a mere listing of*  
47 *references with just a few sentences is not sufficient for a journal paper. But I like that the author looked*  
48 *for papers which described various natural hazard impacts to traffic infrastructures. This needs to be*  
49 *expanded in a revision.*

50 In the revised manuscript, the literature review will be modified and expanded as follows:

51 “Since the early 1950’s (Tanner 1952), it has been recognized that weather conditions affect many road  
52 (un-)safety aspects such as driver's attention and behavior, vehicle's operation, road surface condition, etc.  
53 A large number of studies devoted to the influence of weather factors on the accident rates were published  
54 over the last decades. All the authors agree that the adverse weather is a major factor affecting road  
55 situation (e.g. Edwards 1996; Rakha et al 2007; Andrey 2010; Andersson and Chapman 2011; Bergel-  
56 Hayat et al 2013; Chakrabarty and Gupta 2013). Many authors connect the maximum number of road  
57 accidents with precipitations (Jaroszweski and McNamara 2014; Spasova and Dimitrov 2015). Aron et al  
58 (2007) revealed that 14% of all injury accidents in Normandy (France) took place during rainy weather  
59 and 1% during fog, frost or snow / hail. Satterthwaite (1976) found the rainy weather to be a major factor  
60 affecting accident numbers on the State Highways of California: on very wet days the number of  
61 accidents was often double comparing to dry days. Brodsky & Hakkert (1988) with data from Israel and  
62 the USA did indicate that the added risk of an injury accident in rainy conditions can be two to three  
63 times greater than in dry weather. And when a rain follows a dry spell – the hazard could be even greater.  
64 Among other weather factors, bright sunlight was identified as a cause of accidents (Shiryaeva 2016).  
65 Redelmeier and Raza (2017) investigated visual illusions created by bright sunlight that lead to driver  
66 error, including fallible distance judgment from aerial perspective. According to their results, the risk of a  
67 life-threatening crash was 16% higher during bright sunlight than normal weather.  
68 Some authors consider other natural hazards, such as landslides (Bil et al., 2014; Schlögl et al., 2019),  
69 flash floods (Shabou et al., 2017) or rock falls (Bunce et al., 1997; Budetta and Nappi, 2013).  
70 As for railway transport, most of papers also focus on specific hazards, considering impacts of adverse  
71 weather and hydro-meteorological extremes (Ludvigsen and Klæboe, 2014; Nogal et al., 2016),  
72 landsliding (Jaiswal et al., 2011), flooding (Hong et al., 2015; Kellermann et al., 2016), snowfall  
73 (Ludvigsen and Klæboe, 2014) or tree falls (Nyberg and Johansson, 2013; Bil et al., 2017) as triggers of  
74 accidents.  
75 Some studies combine all types of natural hazards affecting road and rail infrastructure (Govorushko  
76 2012; Petrova, 2015; Kaundinya et al., 2016). Voumard et al. (2018) examine small events like earth  
77 flow, debris flow, rockfall, flood, snow avalanche, and others, which represent three-quarters of the total  
78 direct costs of all natural hazard impacts on Swiss roads and railways.  
79 Investigations of natural hazard impacts on other transport systems than roads and railways are not so  
80 numerous. As example, studies about danger of volcanic eruptions to the aviation should be mentioned  
81 (Neal et al, 2009; Brenot et al., 2014; Girina et al., 2019). Large explosive eruptions of volcanoes can  
82 eject several cubic kilometers of volcanic ash and aerosol into the atmosphere and stratosphere during a  
83 few hours or days posing a threat to modern airliners (Gordeev and Girina, 2014).  
84 Only few researches investigate impacts of global processes, such as geomagnetic storms (space weather)  
85 and seismic activity. In the early 1990’s, Epov (1994) found a correlation ( $R=0.74$ ) between solar activity  
86 and temporal distribution of air crashes. Desiatov et al. (1972) argue that the number of road accidents  
87 multiplies by four on the second day after a solar flare in comparison to "inactive" solar days. According  
88 to Miagkov (1995), solar activity affects operators, drivers, pilots, etc., causing a "human error" and  
89 "human factor" of accidents. Kanonidi et al. (2002) study a relationship between disturbances of the  
90 geomagnetic field and the failure of automatic railway machinery. Kishcha et al. (1999), Anan'in and  
91 Merzlyi (2002) examine a correlation between seismic activity and air crashes.” - (Lines 396-441)

93 *Section 2 is too brief and lacks detail. The study region is only described by region, but no hazard*  
94 *information is provided for those regions. The paper remains on the level of hazard categorization in*  
95 *general. A deeper description of Russia on region level with respect to hazards and vulnerabilities is*  
96 *needed.*

97 Section 2 was revised; a description of Russia on region level with respect to hazards and vulnerabilities  
98 was included in 2.1:

99 “The size and geographical location of the Russian Federation in various climate and geological  
100 conditions determine a great variety of dangerous natural processes and phenomena in its area, including  
101 endogenous, exogenous and hydro-meteorological hazards. The most characteristic features of the  
102 geography of natural hazards in Russia are as follow:  
103 • Natural hazards associated with cold and snow winters are common throughout the country;

- 104 • The population and the economy are relatively low exposed to the most destructive types of  
105 natural hazards (earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, etc.), and therefore the frequency of  
106 occurrence of natural emergencies with severe consequences is low;
- 107 • The historically formed strip of the main settlements from the European part of Russia through  
108 the south of Siberia to the Far East approximately coincides with the zone of the smallest  
109 manifestation of natural hazards (Miagkov, 1995).

110 In Russia, there are several hundred volcanoes, 78 of which are active. Kamchatka and the Kuril Islands  
111 are most at risk of volcanic eruptions; explosive eruptions of two to eight volcanoes are observed  
112 annually (Girina et al., 2019). About 20% of the country area with a population of 20 million people is  
113 exposed to earthquakes. The most seismically active regions are Kamchatka, Sakhalin, as well as the  
114 south of Siberia and the North Caucasus.

115 Almost the entire territory of Russia is exposed to dangerous exogenous processes; their intensity  
116 increases from north to south and from west to east (EMERCOM, 2010). Among exogenous processes,  
117 landslides, which are active in 40% of the country area, debris flows (in 20%), snow avalanches (in more  
118 than 18% of the area), and other slope processes have the greatest intensity and negative impact on the  
119 transport infrastructure. The highest avalanche and debris flow activity is observed in the North Caucasus  
120 (Dagestan, North Ossetia-Alania, Kabardino-Balkaria Republics) and in Sakhalin. The greatest intensity  
121 of landslides is in the North Caucasus (Stavropol and Krasnodar Territories, Rostov Region, Dagestan,  
122 Karachaevo-Cherkesia, Ingushetia, North Ossetia-Alania, Kabardino-Balkaria, and Chechen Republics),  
123 Ural (Chelyabinsk and Sverdlovsk Regions), as well as Irkutsk, Sakhalin, and Amur Regions, Primorsky  
124 and Khabarovsk Territories.

125 Hydro-meteorological hazardous processes and phenomena such as strong winds, squalls, catastrophic  
126 showers, floods, snowstorms, thunderstorms, hailstorms, etc. are widespread in the country. One of the  
127 most dangerous climate situations is the combination of heavy precipitation and strong wind in the coastal  
128 regions of the Far East (Kamchatka, Khabarovsk, and Primorsky Territories, and Sakhalin Region). The  
129 highest frequency of strong winds is observed in the south and in the middle part of the European Russia,  
130 as well as in the Far East. The most intense rains take place in Kamchatka, Krasnodar and Primorsky  
131 Territories; the heaviest snowfalls happen in regions of the North Caucasus, north and south-west of  
132 Siberia, as well as Far East (Sakhalin and Magadan Regions, Kamchatka, Khabarovsk and Primorsky  
133 Territories, Chukotka). Regions of the Far East, such as Republic of Sakha-Yakutia, Primorsky and  
134 Khabarovsk Territories, Amur Region, as well as south of the European Russia (Krasnodar and Stavropol  
135 Territories, Republics of the North Caucasus) are mostly exposed to catastrophic floods.

136 For Russia as a whole, the cumulative degree of natural hazard is increasing from west to east and south,  
137 with progress to the mountainous regions. The most dangerous areas in terms of natural hazards  
138 manifestation are situated in the Territories and Republics of the North Caucasus, Altai Mountains,  
139 Irkutsk Region and Transbaikalia, the Pacific coast of the Far East (Magadan Region and Khabarovsk  
140 Territory), and especially Sakhalin, the Kuril Islands and Kamchatka (Malkhazova and Chalov, 2004).

141 According to the assessment by EMERCOM (2010), the most vulnerable to the impacts of natural  
142 hazards are the following federal regions: Republics of Sakha-Yakutia, Komi and Karelia, Khabarovsk  
143 and Primorsky Territories, Amur, Arkhangelsk, Irkutsk, Magadan, Murmansk, and Volgograd Regions, as  
144 well as Evreiskaia (Yevish) AO, Khanty-Mansiysk and Chukotka Autonomous Okrugs. The vulnerability  
145 was measured as ratio of the total number of realized natural sources of emergencies to the number of  
146 emergency situations caused by them. In the listed regions, the vulnerability is higher than an average for  
147 Russia.” - (Lines 462-510)

148

149 *The methodology section is super brief and it does not sufficient detail about the data sources, the*  
150 *selection criteria / levels for data to be included, the structure of the database, etc. Without this*  
151 *information nobody can reproduce the database or assess the quality of the produced database.*

152 The methodology section was modified; the following paragraphs with more detail about the data sources,  
153 the selection criteria for data to be included, and the structure of the database were added to Section 2.2:

154 “The format of the database makes it possible to structure the collected information and classify it  
155 according to the author’s assessment. The main database table, into which all the information is entered,  
156 has the following structure:

- 157 1) event number - the number changes automatically as information is entered;

- 158 2) date of the incident;  
159 3) country;  
160 4) region;  
161 5) location - the distance to the nearest settlement is additionally indicated;  
162 6) type of accident - according to the EMERCOM classification and assessment by the author;  
163 7) a brief description of the event, including the time of occurrence, probable cause of the accident,  
164 if available, its consequences, and measures taken to eliminate them;  
165 8) geographical coordinates, if applicable;  
166 9) the scale of the emergency situation caused by the accident – local, inter-municipal, regional,  
167 inter-regional, cross-border;  
168 10) the number of deaths;  
169 11) the number of injuries;  
170 12) economic and environmental losses, if any;  
171 13) source of information.

172 All types of technological accidents occurring in Russia are recorded in the database, including those  
173 triggered by impacts of natural events of various genesis. Such accidents in technological systems and  
174 infrastructure due to natural impacts are classified as natural-technological. The transport accidents and  
175 traffic interruptions caused by natural hazards are also listed.” - (Lines 521-542)

176 “The criteria for statistical accounting and reporting transport accident information by the EMERCOM of  
177 Russia are as follows:

- 178 1) for road accidents:
- 179 • Any fact of an accident during the transportation of dangerous goods;
  - 180 • Damage to 10 or more motor units;
  - 181 • Traffic interruptions for 12 hours due to an accident;
  - 182 • Severe accidents with the death of five or more people or injured 10 or more people.
- 183 2) for railway accidents:
- 184 • Any fact of the train crash;
  - 185 • Damage to wagons carrying dangerous goods, causing people to be injured;
  - 186 • Traffic interruptions: on the main railway tracks – for 6 hours or more; in the subway –  
187 for 30 minutes and more;
- 188 3) for air transport accidents – any fact of the aircraft fall or destruction;
- 189 4) for water transport accidents:
- 190 • Emergency release of oil and oil products into water bodies in the amount of 1 ton or  
191 more;
  - 192 • Accidental ingress of liquid and loose toxic substances into water bodies exceeding the  
193 maximum permissible concentration by 5 or more times;
  - 194 • Any fact of flooding or throwing of ships ashore as a result of a storm (hurricane,  
195 tsunami), landing of ships aground;
  - 196 • Accidents on small vessels with the death of five or more people or injured 10 or more  
197 people;
  - 198 • Accidents on small vessels carrying dangerous goods.

199 The same selection criteria are used for events to be included into the author’s database. Events that meet  
200 these criteria are characterized as emergency situations.” - (Lines 550-574)

201 *There is also no definition of risk and it is unclear how the five risk categories are calculated. Just*  
202 *looking at incidents in a database – even with information about natural hazards – does not qualify for a*  
203 *risk analysis. It is more like a statistical analysis of a database. The author needs to describe the method*  
204 *in a detailed and understandable way and she should also include scientific references in the*  
205 *methodology section.*

206 Definition of risk and a detailed description of the method, as well as scientific references were included  
207 in the methodology section:

208 “The accumulation of all the information in the form of an electronic database allows conducting various  
209 thematic search queries and analyzing their results depending on the goals and objectives of the research.

210 For the purposes of this study, a search of information about transport accidents and traffic disruptions  
211 caused by impacts of natural hazards was made. Road, rail, air, and water transport were included in  
212 separate search queries. Statistical and geographical analysis of data obtained as a result of these search  
213 queries was carried out.  
214 The proportion of accidents and disruptions triggered by natural factors was evaluated. All types of  
215 natural hazards and adverse weather conditions were taken into account. The main natural causes of  
216 accidents and failures were identified for each mode of transport.  
217 An assessment was made of the risk of road and railway accidents and traffic disruptions, as well as the  
218 total risk of transport accidents and disruptions caused by adverse and hazardous natural impacts on the  
219 transport infrastructure in Russian federal regions. Road, rail, air and water transport were considered in  
220 the total risk analysis.  
221 Risk is understood as the possibility of undesirable consequences of any action or course of events  
222 (Miagkov, 1995). Risk is measured by the probability of such consequences or the probable magnitude of  
223 losses. There are various methods for assessing risk. In the field of natural hazards, risk is generally  
224 defined as by the product of hazard and vulnerability, i.e. a combination of the damageable phenomenon  
225 and its consequences (Eckert et al., 2012). The most researchers calculate risk (R) as a function of hazard  
226 (H), exposure (E) and vulnerability (V):  $R=f(H,E,V)$  (e.g. Arrighi et al., 2013; Falter et al., 2015; IPCC,  
227 2012; Schneiderbauer and Ehrlich, 2004). Various authors propose their own techniques of calculating  
228 risk, mainly within the framework of this common approach. In a recent publication, Arosio et al. (2020)  
229 propose a holistic approach to analyze risk in complex systems based on the construction and study of a  
230 graph modeling connections between elements.  
231 Another one approach to measuring risk suggests using the concept of emergency situation. In Russia, an  
232 emergency situation is defined as a disturbance of the current activity of a populated region due to abrupt  
233 technological / natural impacts (catastrophes or accidents) resulting in social, economic, and / or  
234 ecological damage, which requires special management efforts to eliminate it (Petrova, 2005). An  
235 emergency situation caused by the impact of natural hazards on technological systems and infrastructure  
236 can be considered as a result of all the factors of risk: hazard, exposure and vulnerability; it combines  
237 hazard defined in its physical parameters, exposure of a population or facilities located in a hazard area  
238 and subject to potential losses, and vulnerability that links the intensity of a hazard to undesirable  
239 consequences. An emergency resulting from a hazardous impact may be a measure of the losses due to  
240 this impact. The total frequency of emergencies of varying severity may serve as a comprehensive  
241 indicator of risk assessment (Shnyparkov, 2004).  
242 In this study, the above approach using frequency of emergency situations as a measure of risk was  
243 applied. As an indicator of risk, the average frequency of occurrence of transport accidents and traffic  
244 disruptions triggered by natural impacts, which led to emergency situations of different scale and severity,  
245 was used. Risk indicators were calculated for each federal region as average annual numbers of  
246 emergency situations in each type of transport, as well as a resulting average annual number of  
247 emergencies due to all transport accidents and disruptions. Thus, the calculated indicators included the  
248 probability of undesirable consequences (emergencies) due to impacts of natural hazards on transport  
249 infrastructure exposed and vulnerable to these influences. Quantitative and qualitative criteria for  
250 classifying transport accidents and disruptions as emergency situations are listed above. For the analysis,  
251 the period from 1992 to 2018 was chosen, since it covered the information accumulated in the database.  
252 Additionally, all the federal regions were divided into groups according to their risk level. The risk level  
253 was estimated for each federal region and each type of transport by the average annual number of  
254 emergency situations in comparison with the average value of the indicator in Russia. The number of  
255 groups was determined in each case depending on the dispersion of the calculated value.” - (Lines 575-  
256 626)

257 *Section 3 is a qualitative description of natural hazard induced incidents to the transportation sectors*  
258 *road, rail, water and air. As a sub section of an improved paper this may provide valuable insights to*  
259 *better understand the vulnerability of transportation infrastructure in Russia, but without a sound section*  
260 *2 it remains unclear whether these results make sense or not. Structuring the analysis along the*  
261 *transportations modes is fine and should be kept, but it should be more analytical and not just*  
262 *descriptive.*

263 Section 3 was revised; the changes made to the text are in red in the revised version of the manuscript  
264 below (Lines 631-898).

265 *The conclusion section lacks also detail and it remains unclear what the main contribution of the paper*  
266 *is. A critical reflection on the method is very brief and the discussion could be expanded, but without*  
267 *knowing more about the methodology and the underlying risk analysis the reviewer can not provide any*  
268 *meaningful recommendations for improvement for this section.*

269 The Conclusion section was revised as follows:

270 Contributions of various natural hazards to occurrences of different types of transport accidents and  
271 traffic disruptions including road, railway, air, and water transport are revealed. Among all the identified  
272 types of natural hazards, the largest contributions to transport accidents and disruptions have hydro-  
273 meteorological hazards such as heavy snowfalls and rains, floods, and ice phenomena, as well as  
274 dangerous exogenous slope processes including snow avalanches, debris flows, landslides, and rock falls.  
275 An annual average frequency of occurrences of emergency situations of various scale and severity is  
276 applied in this study among all possible methods for assessing risk. Unlike methods that assess risk by  
277 measuring its components such as hazard, exposure and vulnerability, this approach takes into account the  
278 consequences of the above factors and the probability of these consequences. Transport accidents and  
279 disruptions are considered in this case as consequences of natural hazard impacts on transport  
280 infrastructure that is exposed and vulnerable to these impacts. The risk index is calculated as an annual  
281 average number of emergency situations caused by natural hazard impacts in each federal region and each  
282 type of transport. Thus, the index used combines both the probability and severity of the adverse impacts  
283 of natural hazards on transport infrastructure, as well as vulnerability of infrastructure to these adverse  
284 impacts resulting in accidents and malfunctions. Using this method, it is possible to compare between  
285 different regions and identify deficiencies that need to be addressed.

286 Regional differences in the risk of transport accidents between Russian federal regions were found. All  
287 the federal regions were divided into groups by their risk levels of road and railway accidents, as well as  
288 the total risk of transport accidents and traffic disruptions due to natural hazard impacts. The resulting  
289 maps were created and analyzed.

290 Magadan, Murmansk, and Sakhalin Regions; Kamchatka, Khabarovsk, Krasnodar, Krasnoyarsk,  
291 Primorsky Territories, and North Ossetia-Alania Republic are characterized by the highest risk of  
292 transport accidents and traffic disruptions caused by natural events. Emergencies of various scales occur  
293 in these regions on average more often than once a year (Figure 5). Chelyabinsk, Orenburg, and Rostov  
294 Regions, Altai Territory, Dagestan and Bashkortostan Republics, and Moscow have a high risk level with  
295 an average probability of one event in 1-2 years (0.6-1.0 events per year).

296 For the study period of 1992 to 2018, the database mainly recorded events caused by exposure to hydro-  
297 meteorological and exogenous natural hazards. With high value of the risk index, Kamchatka, Sakhalin,  
298 the North Caucasus, and south of Siberia are also among the most seismically active regions of Russia,  
299 which further increases the likelihood of emergencies in these regions in case of an earthquake. It is in  
300 these regions that the necessary measures should first be taken to reduce the vulnerability of transport  
301 infrastructure to undesirable natural impacts and increase level of protection and preparedness.

302 Under conditions of observed and forecasted global and regional climate changes, adverse and hazardous  
303 natural impacts on various facilities of transport infrastructure, primarily from natural hazards of  
304 meteorological and hydrological origin, as well as other natural events triggered by them such as  
305 landslides, snow avalanches, and debris flows are expected to increase (Malkhazova and Chalov, 2004;  
306 Yakubovich et al., 2018). Other factors, such as growing transportation network, increased traffic, and the  
307 lack of funding will also lead to increasing of adverse impacts, especially with further development of  
308 transport infrastructure to areas with high level of natural risk. In this regard, continuous monitoring and  
309 assessment of natural hazard impacts is especially relevant and important.

310 Only severe accidents leading to an emergency situation were considered in this study due to a lack of  
311 data on small events. This gap should be filled in a future research because small events can also cause a  
312 great damage to the infrastructure and trigger accidents and traffic interruptions (Voumard et al., 2018).

313 Effects of global processes such as space weather on the transport infrastructure facilities, especially on  
314 electronics and automatic machinery were not taken into consideration because these events were not  
315 recorded in the database. In the future, these impacts should be also investigated; risk of these events  
316 should be considered in the risk assessment.

317

322 **Abstract.** ~~Transport infrastructure is considered as a large and complex technological system including~~  
323 ~~railway and bus stations; tunnels, overpasses, and bridges; sea and river ports; airports; roads, railways,~~  
324 ~~and waterways, as well as other structures, buildings and equipment ensuring the functioning of transport.~~  
325 ~~Almost all of the transport infrastructure facilities are exposed to natural hazard impacts of different~~  
326 ~~genesis. Such impacts pose a threat to transport safety and reliability, trigger accidents and failures, cause~~  
327 ~~traffic disruptions and delays in delivery of passengers and goods. Under conditions of climate changes,~~  
328 ~~these harmful impacts with negative consequences will increase.~~ The transport infrastructure of Russia is  
329 exposed to multiple impacts of various natural hazards and adverse weather phenomena such as heavy  
330 rains and snowfalls, river floods, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, debris flows, snow  
331 avalanches; rock falls, ~~ice phenomena~~ ~~ieing conditions of roads~~, and others. The paper considers impacts  
332 of hazardous natural processes and phenomena on transport within the area of Russia. Using the  
333 information of the author's database, contributions of natural factors to road, railway, air, and water  
334 transport accidents and failures are assessed. The total risk of transport accidents and traffic disruptions  
335 ~~triggered~~ by adverse and hazardous natural impacts, ~~as well as the risk of road and railway accidents and~~  
336 ~~disruptions as the most popular modes of transport~~ is assessed at the level of Russian federal regions. ~~The~~  
337 ~~concept of emergency situation is used to measuring risk. 838 emergency situations of various scale and~~  
338 ~~severity caused by natural hazard impacts on the transport infrastructure over 1992 to 2018 are~~  
339 ~~considered. The average annual number of emergencies is taken as an indicator of risk. Regional~~  
340 ~~differences in the risk of transport accidents and disruptions due to natural events are analyzed. Regions~~  
341 ~~most at risk are identified.~~

342 **Keywords:** Transport infrastructure, natural hazards, transport accident, traffic disruption, database

### 343 1. Introduction

344 ~~According to the Federal Law "On Transport Security" (2019), transport infrastructure of the Russian~~  
345 ~~Federation (RF) is considered as a large and complex technological system including~~ ~~railway and bus~~  
346 ~~stations; tunnels, overpasses, and bridges; marine terminals and stations; river and sea ports; ports on~~  
347 ~~inland waterways; airports; sections of roads, railways, and inland waterways, as well as other buildings,~~  
348 ~~structures, devices, and equipment ensuring the functioning of the transport system. The Russian~~  
349 ~~Federation (RF) Russia~~ has a very extensive transportation network that is among the largest in the world.  
350 It includes 1.5 million km of public roads, more than 600,000 km of airways, 123,000 km of railway  
351 tracks, and 100,000 km of inland navigable waterways (Rosstat, 2018).

352 ~~Throughout the area of Russia, almost all of the listed facilities of~~ Due to the large length of the  
353 ~~transportation network, as well as climatic, geological, geomorphologic, and other natural features of the~~  
354 ~~country, transport infrastructure facilities of Russia~~ are exposed to the undesirable impacts of adverse  
355 natural processes and phenomena, as well as natural hazards of various genesis, such as geophysical,  
356 hydro-meteorological, and others (Geography..., 2004). ~~Their distribution through the country area is~~  
357 ~~discussed below in section 2.1.~~ These impacts may endanger transport safety and reliability, trigger  
358 accidents and failures, disrupt the normal operation of transport system, cause delays in delivery of  
359 passengers and goods, and lead to other negative consequences.

360 ~~All natural hazards can be divided into two groups, based on their origin, features of time variability and~~  
361 ~~spatial distribution, as well as the impact pattern~~ Natural processes and phenomena can be classified in  
362 various ways depending on the objectives of a study. Natural hazards can be typify according to their

363 genetic features, the intensity of their manifestation, the main formation and development factors,  
364 characteristics of spatial distribution and mode, etc. (Malkhazova and Chalov, 2004).

365 Previously, two types of natural hazards were found, based on their genesis, distribution in space and  
366 time, and the impact pattern on the technosphere and society in populated areas (Petrova, 2005). In the  
367 context of the present study, the proposed classification scheme was adapted taking into account impacts  
368 of natural hazards on the transport infrastructure (Figure 1).

369 Solar and geomagnetic disturbances (space weather), geodynamics, geophysical and astrophysical field  
370 variations, and other global processes belong to the first group. They have global scale in space and cyclic  
371 development in time. ~~They~~ Natural processes of this type may influence the transport infrastructure both  
372 directly, causing electronics error and automatic machinery failure, as well as indirectly, by ~~reducing~~  
373 ~~reliability~~ affecting the nervous system of operators, drivers or pilots (~~Petrova, 2005~~) and thereby leading  
374 to a decrease in their reliability. Natural hazards of the second type are of more “earthly” origin, i.e. from  
375 the atmosphere, lithosphere, hydrosphere or biosphere. They vary greatly in their spatial scale and  
376 geographical location. This type of natural hazards includes earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides,  
377 snow avalanches, hurricanes, windstorms, heavy rains, hail, lightning, snow and ice storms, temperature  
378 extremes, wild fires, floods, droughts, etc. Natural hazards belonging to this ~~Geological, hydro-~~  
379 ~~meteorological, biological, and other natural hazards belonging to the second~~ group cause a direct  
380 destructive effect leading to accidents and disruptions.

381 A transport accident is any accident that occurs when people and goods are transported. With over 1.2  
382 million people killed each year, road accidents are among the world's leading causes of death; another  
383 20–50 million people are injured each year on the world's roads (WHO, 2017). Transport accidents of  
384 other types including air, rail, and water transport are not as numerous as road crashes, but the severity of  
385 their consequences is much higher because of the higher number of people killed and injured per accident.  
386 Shipwrecks with a large number of passengers have the highest number of casualties.

387 Traffic interruptions and disruptions cause multiple social problems because our societies are highly  
388 dependent on the transport system for people's daily mobility and for goods transport (Mattsson and  
389 Jenelius, 2015). In the case of emergency situation, transport network serves as a life-line system. Thus,  
390 ensuring the robustness and reliability of the transport system is one of the most important and pressing  
391 problems of the socio-economic development of any country. In May 2018, the Ministry of Transport of  
392 the RF has developed a new version of the Transport Strategy up to 2030 (~~Ministry of Transport of the~~  
393 ~~Russian Federation~~, 2018). Among the key priorities, the Transport Strategy includes requirements to  
394 cope with the modern challenges, such as climate change and a need for increasing the safety of the  
395 transport system.

396 Since the early 1950's (Tanner 1952), it has been recognized that weather conditions affect many road  
397 (un-)safety aspects such as driver's attention and behavior, vehicle's operation, road surface condition, etc.  
398 A large number of studies devoted to the influence of ~~adverse~~ weather ~~conditions~~ factors on the accident  
399 rates were published over the last decades (~~Brodsky and Hakkert 1988; Edwards 1996; Rakha et al 2007;~~  
400 ~~Andrey 2010; Andersson and Chapman 2011; Petrova 2013; Bergel-Hayat et al 2013; Chakrabarty and~~  
401 ~~Gupta 2013; Jaroszweski and McNamara 2014; Spasova and Dimitrov 2015; Shiryaeva 2016~~). All the  
402 authors agree that the ~~adverse~~ weather is a major factor affecting road situation (e.g. Edwards 1996;  
403 Rakha et al 2007; Andrey 2010; Andersson and Chapman 2011; Bergel-Hayat et al 2013; Chakrabarty  
404 and Gupta 2013). Many authors connect the maximum number of road accidents with precipitations  
405 (Jaroszweski and McNamara 2014; Spasova and Dimitrov 2015). Aron et al (2007) revealed that 14% of  
406 all injury accidents in Normandy (France) took place during rainy weather and 1% during fog, frost or  
407 snow / hail. Satterthwaite (1976) found the rainy weather to be a major factor affecting accident numbers  
408 on the State Highways of California: on very wet days the number of accidents was often double



409 comparing to dry days. Brodsky & Hakkert (1988) with data from Israel and the USA did indicate that the  
410 added risk of an injury accident in rainy conditions can be two to three times greater than in dry weather.  
411 And when a rain follows a dry spell – the hazard could be even greater. Among other weather factors,  
412 bright sunlight was identified as a cause of accidents (Shiryaeva 2016). Redelmeier and Raza (2017)  
413 investigated visual illusions created by bright sunlight that lead to driver error, including fallible distance  
414 judgment from aerial perspective. According to their results, the risk of a life-threatening crash was 16%  
415 higher during bright sunlight than normal weather.

416 Some authors consider other natural hazards, such as landslides (Bil et al., 2014; Schlögl et al., 2019),  
417 flash floods (Shabou et al., 2017) or rock falls (Bunce et al., 1997; Budetta and Nappi, 2013). ~~However,~~  
418 ~~no integrated review of all kinds of natural hazards exists.~~

419 As for railway transport, most of papers also focus on specific hazards, considering impacts of adverse  
420 weather and hydro-meteorological extremes (Ludvigsen and Klæboe, 2014; Nogal et al., 2016),  
421 landsliding (Jaiswal et al., 2011), flooding (Hong et al., 2015; Kellermann et al., 2016), snowfall  
422 (Ludvigsen and Klæboe, 2014) or tree falls (Nyberg and Johansson, 2013; Bil et al., 2017) ~~as triggers of~~  
423 ~~accidents.~~

424 Some studies combine all types of natural hazards affecting road and rail infrastructure (Govorushko  
425 2012; Petrova, 2015; Kaundinya et al., 2016). Voumard et al. (2018) examine small events like earth  
426 flow, debris flow, rockfall, flood, snow avalanche, and others, ~~which represent three-quarters of the total~~  
427 ~~direct costs of all natural hazard impacts on Swiss roads and railways. None of the studies provides a~~  
428 ~~comprehensive analysis of the harmful influence of natural events.~~

429 Investigations of natural hazard impacts on other transport systems than roads and railways are not so  
430 numerous. As example, studies about danger of volcanic eruptions to the aviation should be mentioned  
431 (Neal et al, 2009; Brenot et al., 2014; Girina et al., 2019). ~~Large explosive eruptions of volcanoes can~~  
432 ~~eject several cubic kilometers of volcanic ash and aerosol into the atmosphere and stratosphere during a~~  
433 ~~few hours or days posing a threat to modern airliners (Gordeev and Girina, 2014).~~

434 Only few researches investigate impacts of global processes, such as geomagnetic storms (space weather)  
435 and seismic activity. In the early 1990's, Epov (1994) found a correlation ( $R=0.74$ ) between solar activity  
436 and temporal distribution of air crashes. Desiatov et al. (1972) argue that the number of road accidents  
437 multiplies by four on the second day after a solar flare in comparison to "inactive" solar days. According  
438 to Miagkov (1995), solar activity affects operators, drivers, pilots, etc., causing a "human error" and  
439 "human factor" of accidents. Kanonidi et al. (2002) study a relationship between disturbances of the  
440 geomagnetic field and the failure of automatic railway machinery. Kishcha et al. (1999), Anan'in and  
441 Merzlyi (2002) examine a correlation between seismic activity and air crashes.

442 The main purpose of this study is to investigate impacts of natural hazards on the transport infrastructure  
443 and transport facilities in Russian regions. Using the information collected by the author in the database  
444 of technological and natural-technological accidents, contributions of natural factors to road, railway, air,  
445 and water transport accident occurrences and traffic disruptions are assessed. All types of natural hazards  
446 are considered excluding impacts of global processes (left side in Figure 1) that are not listed in the  
447 database. The ~~risk of road and railway accidents and traffic disruptions, as well as the~~ total risk of  
448 transport accidents and disruptions caused by adverse and hazardous natural events is estimated for the  
449 area of Russia.

## 450 2. Materials and methods

### 451 2.1. Study region

452 The Russian Federation is the study region.

453 Federal regions of the RF were taken as basic territorial units for which all the calculations were  
454 performed during the **study analysis**. Federal regions are the main administrative units of the Russian  
455 Federation; at this territorial level, all official statistics are published by the Federal State Statistics  
456 Service (FSSB) and other federal institutions of Russia.

457 The main administrative units of the RF comprise of 85 federal regions (**Figure 2**), including 22  
458 Republics, nine Territories (Kraies), 46 Regions (Oblast's), one Autonomous Region / Autonomous  
459 Oblast' (Evreiskaia (Jewish) AO), and four Autonomous Districts (AD) / Autonomous Okrugs. Moscow,  
460 Saint Petersburg, and Sevastopol have a special status of Federal Cities. **All the federal regions, which are**  
461 **mentioned in the paper, are indicated in Figure 2.**

462 **The size and geographical location of the Russian Federation in various climate and geological conditions**  
463 **determine a great variety of dangerous natural processes and phenomena in its area, including**  
464 **endogenous, exogenous and hydro-meteorological hazards. The most characteristic features of the**  
465 **geography of natural hazards in Russia are as follow:**

- 466 • Natural hazards associated with cold and snow winters are common throughout the country;
- 467 • The population and the economy are relatively low exposed to the most destructive types of  
468 natural hazards (earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, etc.), and therefore the frequency of  
469 occurrence of natural emergencies with severe consequences is low;
- 470 • The historically formed strip of the main settlements from the European part of Russia through  
471 the south of Siberia to the Far East approximately coincides with the zone of the smallest  
472 manifestation of natural hazards (Miagkov, 1995).

473 In Russia, there are several hundred volcanoes, 78 of which are active. Kamchatka and the Kuril Islands  
474 are most at risk of volcanic eruptions; explosive eruptions of two to eight volcanoes are observed  
475 annually (Girina et al., 2019). About 20% of the country area with a population of 20 million people is  
476 exposed to earthquakes. The most seismically active regions are Kamchatka, Sakhalin, as well as the  
477 south of Siberia and the North Caucasus.

478 Almost the entire territory of Russia is exposed to dangerous exogenous processes; their intensity  
479 increases from north to south and from west to east (EMERCOM, 2010). Among exogenous processes,  
480 landslides, which are active in 40% of the country area, debris flows (in 20%), snow avalanches (in more  
481 than 18% of the area), and other slope processes have the greatest intensity and negative impact on the  
482 transport infrastructure. The highest avalanche and debris flow activity is observed in the North Caucasus  
483 (Dagestan, North Ossetia-Alania, Kabardino-Balkaria Republics) and in Sakhalin. The greatest intensity  
484 of landslides is in the North Caucasus (Stavropol and Krasnodar Territories, Rostov Region, Dagestan,  
485 Karachaevo-Cherkesia, Ingushetia, North Ossetia-Alania, Kabardino-Balkaria, and Chechen Republics),  
486 Ural (Chelyabinsk and Sverdlovsk Regions), as well as Irkutsk, Sakhalin, and Amur Regions, Primorsky  
487 and Khabarovsk Territories.

488 Hydro-meteorological hazardous processes and phenomena such as strong winds, squalls, catastrophic  
489 showers, floods, snowstorms, thunderstorms, hailstorms, etc. are widespread in the country. One of the  
490 most dangerous climate situations is the combination of heavy precipitation and strong wind in the coastal  
491 regions of the Far East (Kamchatka, Khabarovsk, and Primorsky Territories, and Sakhalin Region). The  
492 highest frequency of strong winds is observed in the south and in the middle part of the European Russia,  
493 as well as in the Far East. The most intense rains take place in Kamchatka, Krasnodar and Primorsky  
494 Territories; the heaviest snowfalls happen in regions of the North Caucasus, north and south-west of  
495 Siberia, as well as Far East (Sakhalin and Magadan Regions, Kamchatka, Khabarovsk and Primorsky  
496 Territories, Chukotka). Regions of the Far East, such as Republic of Sakha-Yakutia, Primorsky and  
497 Khabarovsk Territories, Amur Region, as well as south of the European Russia (Krasnodar and Stavropol  
498 Territories, Republics of the North Caucasus) are mostly exposed to catastrophic floods.

499 For Russia as a whole, the cumulative degree of natural hazard is increasing from west to east and south,  
500 with progress to the mountainous regions. The most dangerous areas in terms of natural hazards  
501 manifestation are situated in the Territories and Republics of the North Caucasus, Altai Mountains,  
502 Irkutsk Region and Transbaikalia, the Pacific coast of the Far East (Magadan Region and Khabarovsk  
503 Territory), and especially Sakhalin, the Kuril Islands and Kamchatka (Malkhazova and Chalov, 2004).

504 According to the assessment by EMERCOM (2010), the most vulnerable to the impacts of natural  
505 hazards are the following federal regions: Republics of Sakha-Yakutia, Komi and Karelia, Khabarovsk

506 and Primorsky Territories, Amur, Arkhangelsk, Irkutsk, Magadan, Murmansk, and Volgograd Regions, as  
507 well as Evreiskaia (Yevish) AO, Khanty-Mansiysk and Chukotka Autonomous Okrugs. The vulnerability  
508 was measured as ratio of the total number of realized natural sources of emergencies to the number of  
509 emergency situations caused by them. In the listed regions, the vulnerability is higher than an average for  
510 Russia.  
511

## 512 2.2. Methodology

513 The information collected by the author in an electronic database of technological and natural-  
514 technological accidents is analyzed in this study. The database is constantly updated with new  
515 information (Petrova, 2011). Currently, it contains about 20 thousand events from 1992 to 2018. Official  
516 daily emergency reports of the EMERCOM<sup>1</sup> of Russia and media reports serve as data sources. Only  
517 open data is used.

518 ~~The time and place of occurrence, type of accident, the number of deaths and injuries, economic and~~  
519 ~~environmental losses, if any, the probable cause of the accident, if available, a brief description and~~  
520 ~~source of information are recorded there (Figure 2).~~

521 The format of the database makes it possible to structure the collected information and classify it  
522 according to the author's assessment. The main database table, into which all the information is entered,  
523 has the following structure:

- 524 1) event number - the number changes automatically as information is entered;
- 525 2) date of the incident;
- 526 3) country;
- 527 4) region;
- 528 5) location - the distance to the nearest settlement is additionally indicated;
- 529 6) type of accident – according to the EMERCOM classification and assessment by the author;
- 530 7) a brief description of the event, including the time of occurrence, probable cause of the accident,  
531 if available, its consequences, and measures taken to eliminate them;
- 532 8) geographical coordinates, if applicable;
- 533 9) the scale of the emergency situation caused by the accident – local, inter-municipal, regional,  
534 inter-regional, cross-border;
- 535 10) the number of deaths;
- 536 11) the number of injuries;
- 537 12) economic and environmental losses, if any;
- 538 13) source of information.

539 All types of technological accidents occurring in Russia are recorded in the database, including those  
540 triggered by impacts of natural events of various genesis. Such accidents in technological systems and  
541 infrastructure due to natural impacts are classified as natural-technological. The transport accidents and  
542 traffic interruptions caused by natural hazards events are also listed.

543 It should be noted that it is not possible to fully cover all the accidents in the database, because they are  
544 too numerous, ~~The minimum quantitative criterion for entering an event into the database is as follows: at~~  
545 ~~least five dead, ten injured or large economic damage. Only such severe accidents are reported by the~~  
546 ~~EMERCOM of Russia. Nevertheless, the database provides a unique opportunity to monitor and analyze~~  
547 ~~the events that are not always included into the statistics (e.g., impacts of natural hazards, etc.) especially~~  
548 road accidents. According to the State traffic inspectorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia,  
549 168 thousand road accidents are registered in Russia in 2019.

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<sup>1</sup> The Ministry of the Russian Federation for Civil Defense, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters.

550 The criteria for statistical accounting and reporting information about transport accidents by the  
551 EMERCOM of Russia are as follows:

552 1) for road accidents:

- 553 • Any fact of an accident during the transportation of dangerous goods;
- 554 • Damage to 10 or more motor units;
- 555 • Traffic interruptions for 12 hours due to an accident;
- 556 • Severe accidents with the death of five or more people or injured 10 or more people.

557 2) for railway accidents:

- 558 • Any fact of the train crash;
- 559 • Damage to wagons carrying dangerous goods, causing people to be injured;
- 560 • Traffic interruptions: on the main railway tracks – for 6 hours or more; in the subway –  
561 for 30 minutes and more;

562 3) for air transport accidents – any fact of the aircraft fall or destruction;

563 4) for water transport accidents:

- 564 • Emergency release of oil and oil products into water bodies in the amount of 1 ton or  
565 more;
- 566 • Accidental ingress of liquid and loose toxic substances into water bodies exceeding the  
567 maximum permissible concentration by 5 or more times;
- 568 • Any fact of flooding or throwing of ships ashore as a result of a storm (hurricane,  
569 tsunami), landing of ships aground;
- 570 • Accidents on small vessels with the death of five or more people or injured 10 or more  
571 people;
- 572 • Accidents on small vessels carrying dangerous goods.

573 The same selection criteria are used for events to be included into the author's database. Events that meet  
574 these criteria are characterized as emergency situations.

575 The accumulation of all the information in the form of an electronic database allows conducting various  
576 thematic search queries and analyzing their results depending on the goals and objectives of the research.

577 For the purposes of this study, a search of information about transport accidents and traffic disruptions  
578 caused by the impacts of natural hazards was made. Road, rail, air, and water transport were included in  
579 separate search queries. Statistical and geographical analysis of ~~the information accumulated in the~~  
580 ~~database~~ data obtained as a result of these search queries was carried out. ~~Based on the results of the~~  
581 ~~analysis, the role of natural factors among all the causes of various types of transport accidents and traffic~~  
582 ~~disruptions was evaluated. Road, railway, air, and water transport were taken into consideration.~~

583 The proportion of accidents and disruptions triggered by natural factors was evaluated. All types of  
584 natural hazards and adverse weather conditions were taken into account. The main natural causes of  
585 accidents and failures were identified for each mode of transport.

586 An assessment was made of the risk of road and railway accidents and traffic disruptions, as well as the  
587 total risk of ~~all the considered~~ transport accidents and disruptions caused by adverse and hazardous  
588 natural impacts on the transport infrastructure in Russian federal regions. Road, rail, air and water  
589 transport were considered in the total risk analysis.

590 Risk is understood as the possibility of undesirable consequences of any action or course of events  
591 (Miagkov, 1995). Risk is measured by the probability of such consequences or the probable magnitude of  
592 losses. There are various methods for assessing risk. In the field of natural hazards, risk is generally  
593 defined as by the product of hazard and vulnerability, i.e. a combination of the damageable phenomenon  
594 and its consequences (Eckert et al., 2012). The most researchers calculate risk (R) as a function of hazard  
595 (H), exposure (E) and vulnerability (V):  $R=f(H,E,V)$  (e.g. Arrighi et al., 2013; Falter et al., 2015; IPCC,  
596 2012; Schneiderbauer and Ehrlich, 2004). Various authors propose their own techniques of calculating  
597 risk, mainly within the framework of this common approach. In a recent publication, Arosio et al. (2020)

598 propose a holistic approach to analyze risk in complex systems based on the construction and study of a  
599 graph modeling connections between elements.

600 Another one approach to measuring risk suggests using the concept of emergency situation. In Russia, an  
601 emergency situation is defined as a disturbance of the current activity of a populated region due to abrupt  
602 technological / natural impacts (catastrophes or accidents) resulting in social, economic, and / or  
603 ecological damage, which requires special management efforts to eliminate it (Petrova, 2005). An  
604 emergency situation caused by the impact of natural hazards on technological systems and infrastructure  
605 can be considered as a result of all the factors of risk: hazard, exposure and vulnerability; it combines  
606 hazard defined in its physical parameters, exposure of a population or facilities located in a hazard area  
607 and subject to potential losses, and vulnerability that links the intensity of a hazard to undesirable  
608 consequences. An emergency resulting from a hazardous impact may be a measure of the losses due to  
609 this impact. The total frequency of emergencies of varying severity may serve as a comprehensive  
610 indicator of risk assessment (Shnyparkov, 2004).

611 ~~Occurrence frequencies~~ In this study, the above approach using frequency of emergency situations as a  
612 measure of risk was applied. As an indicator of risk, the average frequency of occurrence of transport  
613 accidents and traffic disruptions triggered by natural hazard impacts, which led to emergency situations of  
614 different scale and severity, was ~~for the six year period from 2013 to 2018~~ were used as risk indicators.  
615 ~~For this purpose, the~~ Risk indicators were calculated for each federal region as average annual numbers of  
616 ~~accidents~~ emergency situations in ~~was calculated for each federal region and~~ each type of transport, as  
617 well as a resulting average annual number of emergencies due to all transport accidents and disruptions.  
618 Thus, the calculated indicators included the probability of undesirable consequences (emergencies) due to  
619 impacts of natural hazards on transport infrastructure exposed and vulnerable to these influences.  
620 Quantitative and qualitative criteria for classifying transport accidents and disruptions as emergency  
621 situations are listed above. For the analysis, the period from 1992 to 2018 was chosen, since it covered the  
622 information accumulated in the database.

623 Additionally, all the federal regions were divided into groups ~~by~~ according to their ~~levels of~~ risk level.  
624 The risk level was estimated for each federal region and each type of transport by the average annual  
625 number of emergency situations in comparison with the average value of the indicator in Russia. The  
626 number of groups was determined in each case depending on the dispersion of the calculated value. ~~For~~  
627 ~~the analysis, the period from 2013 to 2018 was chosen, since it covered the most representative~~  
628 ~~information.~~

629 Using the ~~method of~~ cartogram method, maps were created ~~showing, on which~~ the results of the  
630 assessment were presented.

### 631 3. Results

#### 632 3.1. Contributions of natural hazards

633 The transport infrastructure of Russia is exposed to multiple impacts of various natural hazards and  
634 weather phenomena such as heavy rains and snowfalls, strong winds, floods, earthquakes, volcanic  
635 eruptions, landslides, debris flows, snow avalanches; rock falls, icing conditions of roads, and others. In  
636 many cases, these impacts occur simultaneously or successively, one after another, and reinforce each  
637 other. Some natural hazards trigger hazards of other types, e.g. earthquake or volcanic eruption can  
638 provoke such slope processes as rock falls, ice collapses, landslides, debris flows / lahars, snow  
639 avalanches, and others; heavy rain can cause debris flows, landslides or floods, etc. Gill and Malamud  
640 (2016) examine hazard interrelationships in more detail. These triggering impacts are also recorded in the  
641 database and taken into account in the analysis.

642 Contributions of various natural factors to occurrences of different types of transport accidents and traffic  
643 disruptions including road, railway, air, and water transport were found revealed as results of relevant  
644 searches in the database.

645 Table 1 shows these results. The “+” sign marks impacts of the-listed natural hazards listed in the first  
646 column that-caused accidents-and-disruptions on the corresponding type of transport. Only accidents and  
647 disruptions occurred in Russia and recorded in the database over-1992-to-2018 are taken into  
648 consideration.

649 As the analysis of the database revealed, transport infrastructure of Russia is The most often affected by  
650 adverse impacts were-caused-by-natural-hazards of meteorological and hydrological origin, especially by  
651 hazards associated with cold and snow winters, as well as exogenous slope processes including those  
652 provoked by the hydro-meteorological hazards. The majority of emergency situations due to natural  
653 hazards are registered from November to March (more than 67%); among the warmer months, the largest  
654 number of transport accidents occurs in July.

655 The frequencies of occurrence of accidents and disruptions caused by the impacts of natural hazards, as  
656 well as their proportion among other factors of accidents are discussed in the following sections.

### 657 3.1.1. Automobile Road transport

658 Road transport is one of the main means of moving passengers and goods over short and medium  
659 distances in Russia. In terms of transport security, it is the most dangerous means of transportation with  
660 the highest number of fatalities and injuries in accidents (Petrova, 2013) and one of the most common  
661 sources of technological hazard, as the number of cars on roads increases significantly faster than the  
662 quality of road infrastructure (EMERCOM, 2010).

663 More than 20% of road accidents and traffic disruptions registered in the database were caused by the  
664 impacts of various natural hazards. This refers to those incidents where the natural impact was indicated  
665 as the cause of the accident.

666 Automobile Road transport facilities and road infrastructure are exposed to adverse and hazardous natural  
667 processes and phenomena of hydro-meteorological character practically all around Russia. Many sections  
668 of roads, bridges and other road infrastructure are subject to impacts of snowfalls and snowstorms, heavy  
669 rainfalls, flooding, and icing roads; from among exogenous hazards, landslides, icy-conditions, debris  
670 flows, snow avalanches, rock falls, and other natural hazards affect road infrastructure. These negative  
671 impacts trigger road accidents and traffic disruptions leading to emergency situations and causing many  
672 social problems. Under unfavorable meteorological conditions, the risks of car crashes as well as the  
673 delay of transportation are increasing, whereas the speed of traffic flow is decreasing (Petrova and  
674 Shiryaeva 2019).

675 During the study period from 1992 to 2018, the following natural hazard impacts that caused accidents  
676 and traffic disruptions are identified. They were recorded in 70 from 85 federal regions of Russia. The  
677 brackets indicate the regions where these accidents and failures occurred:

- 678 • **heavy snowfall and snowdrift** (Altai Republic; Altai, Kamchatka, Krasnodar, Krasnoyarsk,  
679 Primorsky, Stavropol, and Khabarovsk Territories; Jewish AO; Yamalo-Nenets AD; Amur,  
680 Arkhangelsk, Astrakhan, Volgograd, Magadan, Murmansk, Novosibirsk, Omsk, Orenburg,  
681 Rostov, Sakhalin, Saratov, Sverdlovsk, and Chelyabinsk Regions);
- 682 • **bottom snowstorm** (Republics of Bashkortostan and Komi; Altai, Kamchatka, and Krasnoyarsk  
683 Territories; Volgograd, Magadan, Murmansk, Orenburg, Sakhalin, Ulyanovsk, and Chelyabinsk  
684 Regions);

- 685 • **ice phenomena** (Republics of Bashkortostan, Kalmykia, and Khakassia; Primorsky, and  
686 Khabarovsk Territories; Jewish AO; Leningrad, Magadan, Rostov, Sakhalin, and Chelyabinsk  
687 Regions);
- 688 • **abnormally low air temperature** (Yamalo-Nenets AD; Krasnoyarsk Territory; Kemerovo,  
689 Novosibirsk, Omsk, and Tomsk Regions);
- 690 • **flooding of road due to heavy rain** (Moscow; Altai Republic, Bashkortostan, Buryatia, Sakha-  
691 Yakutia, Khakassia, and Tyva; Chukotka AD; Altai, Krasnodar, Primorsky, and Stavropol  
692 Territories; Amur, Arkhangelsk, Leningrad, Magadan, Moscow, Nizhny Novgorod, Novgorod,  
693 Sakhalin, and Saratov Regions);
- 694 • **washout of road** (Republic of Sakha-Yakutia; Kamchatka Territory; Sverdlovsk and Tyumen  
695 Regions);
- 696 • **debris flow** (Chechen Republic, Kabardino-Balkaria, Karachay-Cherkessia, and Republic of  
697 North Ossetia-Alania; Krasnodar Territory; Sakhalin Region);
- 698 • **snow avalanche** (Republic of Dagestan, North Ossetia-Alania);
- 699 • **rock fall** (Republic of Dagestan, North Ossetia-Alania);
- 700 • **volcanic eruption** (Kamchatka Territory).

701 The majority of all the emergencies revealed (almost 73%) happened during the cold season from  
702 November to March. A significant increasing in their number occurred during abrupt changes in weather  
703 conditions, such as heavy precipitation, temperature drops, icing. Emergency situations caused by snow  
704 related natural hazards were most often and most common. Snow drifts on the roads became a real  
705 disaster leading to long-term traffic disruptions in many regions of Russia, especially in Arkhangelsk,  
706 Novosibirsk, Omsk, Orenburg, Rostov, Sakhalin, Sverdlovsk, and Chelyabinsk Regions, Altai,  
707 Krasnodar, and Khabarovsk Territories.

708 The frequencies of occurrence of road accidents and disruptions due to natural hazards are discussed in  
709 section 3.2.1.

### 710 3.1.2. Railway transport

711 In the Russian Federation, due to its vast and extended territory and natural features, a large distance of  
712 the raw material base from processing enterprises, railway transportation is the basis of the transport  
713 system. It accounts for more than 80% of the freight turnover of all types of transport (without pipelines)  
714 and over 40% of the passenger traffic of public transport in long-distance and suburban communications.  
715 Railway transport is considered the safest form of modern transportation, although railway catastrophes  
716 with a large number of victims and injuries occur in many countries. The main causes of railway  
717 accidents in Russia are technical problems, a high degree of depreciation (of tracks, rolling stocks,  
718 signaling means, and other equipment), and a “human factor” such as errors of dispatchers and drivers,  
719 etc. (Petrova, 2015).

720 More than 7% of all railway accidents and failures registered in the database were triggered by natural  
721 factors. This refers to those incidents where natural impacts were indicated as causes of accidents. Over  
722 1992 to 2018, impacts of natural hazards of various genesis caused railway accidents and traffic  
723 disruptions in 29 from 85 federal regions of Russia.

724 The identified natural hazards that caused these harmful events are listed below. The brackets indicate the  
725 regions where these accidents and failures occurred:

- 726 • **heavy snow** (Yamalo-Nenets AD; Orenburg and Sakhalin Regions);
- 727 • **washout of railway as a result of heavy rain and flash flood** (Dagestan, Karelia, Udmurtia, and  
728 Chuvashia Republics; Amur and Sakhalin Regions; Khabarovsk and Krasnodar Territories);
- 729 • **snow avalanche** (Sakhalin Region; Khabarovsk Territory);
- 730 • **rails deformation due to heat wave** (Kalmykia Republic; Rostov Region);
- 731 • **landslide** (Krasnodar Territory; Orel Region);
- 732 • **debris flow** (Sakhalin Region; Krasnodar Territory);

733 • *rock fall* (Khabarovsk and Krasnodar Territories; Bashkortostan Republic);

734 • *flooding due to melting snow* (Murmansk and Vologda Regions).

735 Regarding seasonality of accidents, they had two peaks: in summer (in June and July) and in November.

736 The most part of emergency situations were caused by snow drifts, washout or flooding of railway tracks

737 due to heavy rains or floods, as well as by the slope processes such as landslides, snow avalanches, debris

738 flows, and rock falls.

739 The frequencies of occurrence of railway accidents due to natural hazards are discussed in section 3.2.2.

### 740 3.1.3. Air transport

741 Air transport is the fastest and most expensive mode of transportation. That is why it is primarily used to

742 transport passengers over distances of more than 1,000 km. In many distant areas of Russia (in the

743 mountains, in the Far North), it is the only means of transport. The main causes of accidents are technical

744 failures or “human errors”, as well as various natural factors including adverse weather or collision with a

745 flock of birds (EMERCOM, 2010).

746 The adverse weather conditions and other natural hazard impacts caused more than 8% of all the air

747 transport accidents and traffic disruptions recorded in the database. This refers to those incidents where

748 natural impacts were indicated as causes of accidents. Over 1992 to 2018, these events were registered in

749 27 from 85 federal regions of Russia.

750 The following impacts of natural hazards were revealed:

751 • *strong winds* (Moscow, Irkutsk, Murmansk, Omsk, Rostov, Sakhalin, Saratov, and Ulyanovsk  
752 Regions, Kamchatka, Krasnodar, and Krasnoyarsk Territories, Bashkortostan, Chuvashia, and  
753 Tatarstan Republics);

754 • *thunderstorms* (Irkutsk Region, Republic of Sakha-Yakutia);

755 • *heavy rains* (Moscow, Irkutsk Region, Krasnodar and Khabarovsk Territories);

756 • *snowfalls and snowstorms* (Moscow, Leningrad, Magadan, Rostov, and Sakhalin Regions,  
757 Kamchatka, Krasnodar, and Krasnoyarsk Territories, Republic of Khakassia);

758 • *sleets* (Moscow, St. Petersburg, Rostov Region, Kamchatka and Krasnodar Territories,  
759 Bashkortostan, Chuvashia, and Tatarstan Republics);

760 • *runway icing* (Moscow, Kaluga and Murmansk Regions, Kamchatka and Primorsky Territories);

761 • *fog* (Moscow, Sverdlovsk Region, Chechen and Ingushetia Republics);

762 • *snow avalanche* (Kamchatka);

763 • *volcanic eruption*.

764 In many cases, these adverse impacts occurred simultaneously. Thus, the majority of emergency

765 situations were caused by the combination of heavy snow and strong winds. Almost 66% of events

766 occurred during the cold season from November to March; another one peak of accidents was in July.

767 A unique incident, when a helicopter was damaged as a result of an avalanche, was recorded in the

768 database on April 10, 2010 in Kamchatka.

769 For the study period, there was not a single accident caused by volcanic eruption in Russia. Due to the

770 eruption of the Icelandic volcano Eyyafyatlayokudl, airlines canceled and delayed more than 500 flights

771 at 10 Russian airports in April 2010; 32 thousand passengers could not fly.

772 The frequencies of occurrence of air transport accidents caused by natural hazards were included in the

773 total risk analysis (section 3.2.5).

### 774 3.1.4. Water transport

775 Water transport includes both sea and river transport. Despite the relatively low speed and seasonal

776 limitations on traffic, this type of transport is widely used for transporting large volumes of goods and



777 passengers at different distances. The main causes of accidents in water transport are violations of the  
778 rules of navigation and transportation, of fire safety, and technical operation of vessels; depreciation of  
779 ships, ports' equipment, and other objects of infrastructure, as well as impacts of natural hazards and  
780 adverse weather conditions (EMERCOM, 2010).

781 The greatest contribution of natural factors to the accident rate after road transport was recorded for water  
782 transport. Almost 16% of all the water transport accidents registered in the database were caused by  
783 various natural hazards. These events were registered in 21 from 85 federal regions of Russia.

784 The following impacts were revealed from 1992 to 2018:

- 785 • **strong winds** (Leningrad, Sakhalin, and Sverdlovsk Regions, Kamchatka, Krasnodar, and  
786 Primorsky Territories);
- 787 • **storms** (Astrakhan, Irkutsk, Magadan, Murmansk, Rostov, Ryasan, Sakhalin, and Yaroslavl  
788 Regions, Kamchatka, Khabarovsk, Krasnodar, and Primorsky Territories, Dagestan, Karelia, and  
789 Tatarstan Republics, Yamalo-Nenets AD);
- 790 • **snowstorms** (Irkutsk and Sakhalin Regions);
- 791 • **icing** (Sakhalin Region, Primorsky Territory, Republic of Sakha-Yakutia);
- 792 • **thunderstorms** (Leningrad Region, Komi Republic);
- 793 • **fog and mist** (Leningrad and Sakhalin Regions).

794 The most part of accidents (more than 70%) occurred during the cold season from September to January.

795 The frequencies of occurrence of water transport accidents due to natural hazards were included in the  
796 total risk analysis (section 3.2.5).

### 797 3.2. Risk of transport accidents and traffic disruptions

798 Occurrence frequencies of road, railway, air, and water accidents and traffic disruptions due to natural  
799 hazard impacts at the level of Russian federal regions were estimated for the risk analysis. As mentioned  
800 in section 2.2, only accidents and disruptions, which reached the scale of an emergency situation, were  
801 taken into account. Annual average numbers of such events over 1992 to 2018 were used as risk  
802 indicators.

803 All the federal regions were divided into groups by their risk levels of road and railway accidents, as well  
804 as the total risk of transport accidents and traffic disruptions. In each case, the risk level was determined  
805 in comparison with the average value of the corresponding indicator for Russia.

806 The resulting maps were created and analyzed. Regional differences in the risk of transport accidents  
807 were found. Below are the main results of the risk assessment analysis.

#### 808 3.2.1. Road transport

809 Risk of emergencies in road transport depends on the density of the road network, traffic intensity, human  
810 factors (violation of traffic rules by drivers and pedestrians, etc.), as well as climatic conditions,  
811 seasonality, and other circumstances. With a large area of the country, the paved public road density in  
812 Russia is the lowest of all the G8 countries, equal to 63 km per 1,000 km<sup>2</sup> (FSSS, 2020). However, it is  
813 much higher in the densely populated regions of the European part of Russia. In the Asian part, only some  
814 south-western and south-eastern regions have a satisfactory network of hard-surface roads (Petrova and  
815 Shiryaeva, 2019). Federal Cities Moscow and St. Petersburg have the highest density of paved public  
816 roads, which comprises to about 2,500 km / 1,000 km<sup>2</sup>; it is also high in federal regions of the central  
817 Russia (Moscow and Belgorod Regions) and the North Caucasus (Ingushetia and North Ossetia-Alania  
818 Republics), equal to 700-850 km / 1,000 km<sup>2</sup> (FSSS, 2020).

819 Risk of road accidents and traffic disruptions due to natural hazard impacts within the Russian federal  
820 regions was assessed.

821 ~~Occurrence frequencies (annual average numbers) of road accidents and traffic disruptions over 2013 to~~  
822 ~~2018 are used as risk indicators. 484 serious road accidents and traffic disruptions~~

823 635 emergency situations of various scale and severity caused by the impacts of natural hazards on road  
824 infrastructure were taken into consideration. The main triggers of these emergencies and the regions of  
825 their occurrence were identified in section 3.1.1. The risk indicator was calculated as an average annual  
826 number of emergency situations of this type in each federal region as well as the average for Russia.

827 All the federal regions are divided into five groups in accordance with ~~by their~~ risk levels by comparing  
828 their risk indicators with the average for Russia. The resulting map is shown in ~~the~~ Figure 3.

829 Regions of the Far East of Russia (Magadan and Sakhalin Regions, Kamchatka and Khabarovsk  
830 Territory), ~~and~~ Krasnoyarsk Territory in the southern part of Central Siberia, ~~and~~ Republic of North  
831 Ossetia-Alania in the North Caucasus have the highest risk level. The road infrastructure in these regions  
832 is mostly affected by the above listed natural hazards ~~impacts~~ especially ~~by those of~~ heavy snowfalls and  
833 snowstorms, ice phenomena, abnormally low air temperature, ~~and~~ heavy rains, ~~and debris flows~~. In North  
834 Ossetia-Alania impacts of snow avalanches and debris flows are most significant.

### 835 3.2.2. Railway transport

836 Risk of emergencies in railway transport depends on the density of the railway network, traffic intensity,  
837 human factors, climatic conditions, and seasonality. The highest density of the public railway network is  
838 in Federal Cities Moscow (1,921 km / 10,000 km<sup>2</sup>) and St. Petersburg (3,082 km / 10,000 km<sup>2</sup>), as well as  
839 federal regions of the central and north-western parts of the European Russia such as Moscow,  
840 Kaliningrad, Tula, Kursk, Vladimir, and Leningrad Regions (300-500 km / 10,000 km<sup>2</sup>). With a lack of  
841 railways in a large part of the country area, especially in its Asian part, the average density of railways in  
842 Russia is 51 km / 10,000 km<sup>2</sup>; in the central part of the European Russia it is 263 km / 10,000 km<sup>2</sup> (FSSS,  
843 2020).

844 Risk of railway accidents and traffic disruptions due to natural hazard impacts at the level of Russian  
845 federal regions ~~was is~~ assessed.

846 63 emergency situations of various scale and severity ~~serious events~~ caused by the impacts of natural  
847 hazards on railway infrastructure were taken into consideration. The main triggers of these emergencies  
848 and the regions of their occurrence were identified in section 3.1.2. Occurrence frequencies (annual  
849 average numbers) of ~~railway accidents and disruptions are used as risk indicators~~ these events were  
850 calculated for each federal region as well as the average for Russia.

851 All the federal regions are divided into three groups by their risk levels. In this case, only three groups are  
852 chosen, since the number of accidents and dispersion of risk indicators are not as great as in the case of  
853 road accidents. The resulting map is shown in ~~the~~ Figure 4.

854 Krasnodar Territory in the southern part of European Russia and regions of the Far East (Sakhalin  
855 Region; Khabarovsk Territory) ~~have~~ are characterized by the highest level of risk. Railways in these  
856 regions are mostly affected by the impacts of heavy snowfalls, heavy rains, snow avalanches, landslides,  
857 debris flows, and rock falls.

### 858 3.2.3. Air transport

859 Risk of emergencies in air transport depends on the aircraft technical condition, air traffic intensity,  
860 human factors, meteorological conditions, and seasonality.

861 The number of air transport accidents and traffic disruptions due to impacts of natural hazards was  
862 included in the calculation of the total risk indicator of transport accidents and disruptions. 70 emergency  
863 situations serious incidents were taken into consideration. The main triggers of these emergencies and the  
864 regions of their occurrence were identified in section 3.1.3.

#### 865 3.2.4. Water transport

866 Risk of emergencies in water transport depends on technical conditions of vessels, traffic intensity,  
867 human factors, climatic conditions, and seasonality.

868 Water transport accidents due to natural impacts were also included in the calculation of the total risk of  
869 transport accidents and disruptions. 70 emergency situations serious incidents were taken into  
870 consideration. The main triggers of these emergencies and the regions of their occurrence were identified  
871 in section 3.1.4.

#### 872 3.2.5. The total risk

873 Additionally, the total risk of transport accidents and traffic disruptions was assessed for the area of  
874 Russia. Occurrence frequencies of all the above listed types of accidents and disruptions in all the above  
875 examined types of transport over 2013 1992 to 2018 were used as risk indicators.

876 838 emergency situations of various scale and severity caused by the impacts of natural hazards on  
877 transport infrastructure were taken into consideration. The main triggers of these accidents were identified  
878 in section 3.1 and shown in Table 1; annual average numbers of these events were calculated for each  
879 federal region as well as the average for Russia.

880 All the federal regions were divided into five groups by their risk levels. The procedure for selecting  
881 groups was described in section 2.2.

882 The resulting map is shown in the Figure 5. Regions of the Far East (Magadan and Sakhalin Regions;  
883 Kamchatka, Khabarovsk, and Primorsky Territories), Krasnoyarsk Territory in the southern part of  
884 Central Siberia, Murmansk Region in the north and Krasnodar Territory in the southern part of European  
885 Russia and North Ossetia-Alania Republic in the North Caucasus have the highest level of risk. The  
886 transport infrastructure in these regions is mostly affected by the adverse impacts of the above listed  
887 natural hazards listed in Table 1, primarily those of hydro-meteorological genesis. Kamchatka,  
888 Khabarovsk, and Primorsky Territories, as well as Sakhalin Region are characterized by the most  
889 dangerous meteorological combinations of heavy precipitations and strong winds. In Kamchatka,  
890 Krasnodar and Primorsky Territories, the most intense rains are recorded. In all the above regions in  
891 winter, the heaviest snowfalls happen. In spring and early autumn, Khabarovsk, Krasnodar and Primorsky  
892 Territories are subject to catastrophic floods. Kamchatka is most at risk of volcanic eruptions. North  
893 Ossetia-Alania and Sakhalin are characterized by the highest avalanche and debris flow activity. All of  
894 the mentioned natural hazards trigger accidents and lead to delay in the transportation of passengers and  
895 goods by road, railway, air and water transport. In addition, Kamchatka, Sakhalin, south part of Siberia,  
896 and the North Caucasus are among the most seismically active regions of Russia; during the study period,  
897 no traffic accidents due to the earthquake were recorded, but their possibility should be taken into  
898 account.

899

#### 900 4. Concluding remarks and discussion

901 Contributions of various natural hazards to occurrences of different types of transport accidents and  
902 traffic disruptions including road, railway, air, and water transport are revealed. Among all the identified  
903 types of natural hazards, the largest contributions to transport accidents and disruptions have hydro-

904 meteorological hazards such as heavy snowfalls and rains, floods, and ice phenomena, as well as  
905 dangerous exogenous slope processes including snow avalanches, debris flows, landslides, and rock falls.

906 An annual average frequency of occurrences of emergency situations of various scale and severity ~~severe~~  
907 ~~events was~~ is applied ~~chosen~~ in this study among all possible methods for assessing risk. Unlike methods  
908 that assess risk by measuring its components such as hazard, exposure and vulnerability, this approach  
909 takes into account the consequences of the above factors and the probability of these consequences.  
910 Transport accidents and disruptions are considered in this case as consequences of natural hazard impacts  
911 on transport infrastructure that is exposed and vulnerable to these impacts. The risk index is calculated as  
912 an annual average number of emergency situations caused by natural hazard impacts in each federal  
913 region and each type of transport. Thus, the index used combines both the probability and severity of the  
914 adverse impacts of natural hazards on transport infrastructure, as well as vulnerability of infrastructure to  
915 these adverse impacts resulting in accidents and malfunctions. Using this method, it is possible to  
916 compare between different regions and identify deficiencies that need to be addressed.

917 Regional differences in the risk of transport accidents between Russian federal regions were found. All  
918 the federal regions were divided into groups by their risk levels of road and railway accidents, as well as  
919 the total risk of transport accidents and traffic disruptions due to natural hazard impacts. The resulting  
920 maps were created and analyzed.

921 The Magadan, Murmansk, and Sakhalin Regions; Kamchatka, Khabarovsk, Krasnodar, Krasnoyarsk, and  
922 Primorsky Territories, and North Ossetia-Alania Republic are characterized by the highest risk of  
923 transport accidents and traffic disruptions caused by natural events. ~~More than five severe events per year~~  
924 ~~during 2013-2018 were recorded~~ Emergencies of various scales occur in these regions on average more  
925 often than once a year (Figure 5). Murmansk Chelyabinsk, Orenburg, and Rostov Regions, Altai  
926 Territory, Dagestan and Bashkortostan the Republics of North Ossetia (Alania), and Moscow also have a  
927 high risk level with an average probability of one event in 1-2 years ~~3.0-4.5~~ (0.6-1.0 events per year).

928 For the study period of 1992 to 2018, the database mainly recorded events caused by exposure to hydro-  
929 meteorological and exogenous natural hazards. With high value of the risk index, Kamchatka, Sakhalin,  
930 the North Caucasus, and south of Siberia are also among the most seismically active regions of Russia,  
931 which further increases the likelihood of emergencies in these regions in case of an earthquake. It is in  
932 these regions that the necessary measures should first be taken to reduce the vulnerability of transport  
933 infrastructure to undesirable natural impacts and increase level of protection and preparedness.

934 Under conditions of observed and forecasted global and regional climate changes, adverse and hazardous  
935 natural impacts on various facilities of transport infrastructure, primarily from natural hazards of  
936 meteorological and hydrological origin, as well as other natural events triggered by them such as  
937 landslides, snow avalanches, and debris flows are expected to increase (Malkhazova and Chalov, 2004;  
938 Yakubovich et al., 2018). Other factors, such as growing transportation network, increased traffic, and the  
939 lack of funding will also lead to increasing of adverse impacts, especially in the with further development  
940 of transport infrastructure to areas with high level of natural ~~identified regions most at~~ risk. In this regard,  
941 continuous monitoring and assessment of natural hazard impacts is especially relevant and important.

942 Only severe accidents leading to an emergency situation were considered in this study due to a lack of  
943 data on small events. This gap should be filled in a future research because small events can also cause a  
944 great damage to the infrastructure and trigger accidents and traffic interruptions (Voumard et al., 2018).

945 Effects of global processes such as space weather on the transport infrastructure facilities, especially on  
946 electronics and automatic machinery were not taken into consideration because these events were not  
947 recorded in the database. In the future, these impacts should be also investigated; risk of these events  
948 should be considered in the risk assessment.

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952

953 **Data availability:**

954 The data used in this study are ~~collected by the author in an electronic database, which is not confidential~~  
955 ~~and property of Lomonosov Moscow State University and cannot be made~~ available publicly.

956

957 **Competing interest:** The author declares that she has no conflict of interest.

958

959 **Author’s contribution:** The work presented in this study was conducted by E. Petrova.

960

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1114 **Table 1: Transport accidents and traffic disruptions caused by natural hazards in Russia (1992-**  
 1115 **2018)**

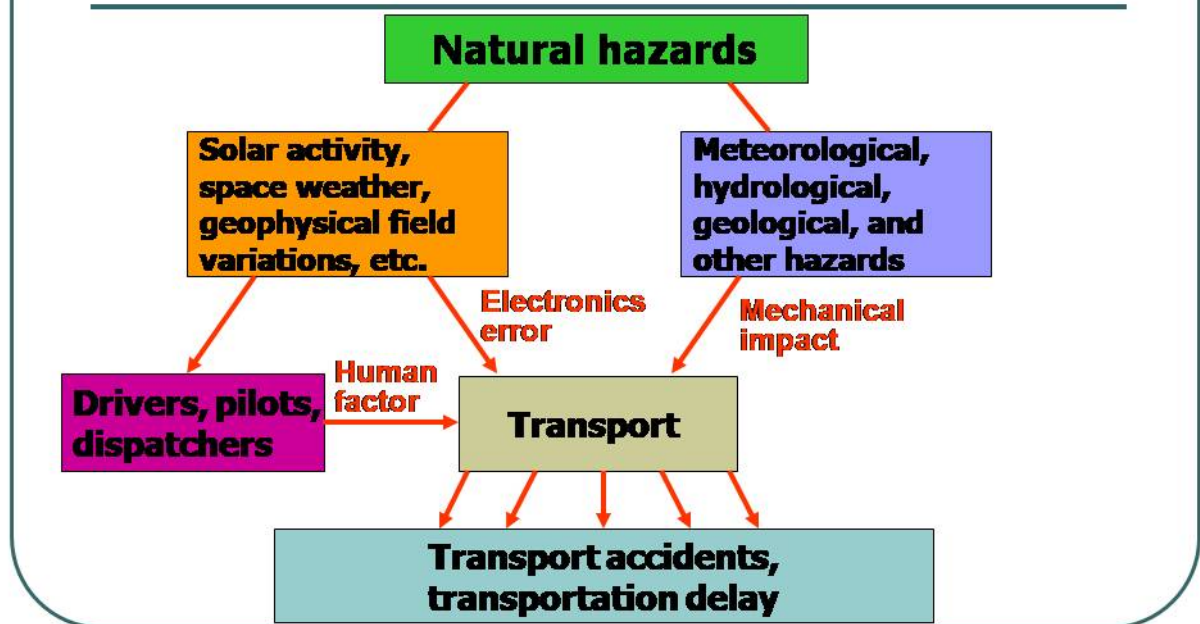
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Natural hazard \ Type of transport	Road transport	Railway transport	Air transport	Water transport
Strong wind, storm			+	+
Snowfall, snowstorm, snowdrift, sleet	+	+	+	+
Rainfall, hailstone	+	+	+	
Hard frost, icing, ice-crusted ground	+		+	+
Thunderstorm, lightning			+	+
Fog, mist	+		+	+
Flood	+	+		
Heat wave		+		
Earthquake, volcanic eruption	+		+	
Landslide, slump, debris flow	+	+		
Rock fall	+	+		
Snow avalanche	+	+	+	

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# Natural hazard impacts on the transport infrastructure



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1121 Figure 1: Grouping of natural hazards based on their genesis and impacts on transport  
1122 infrastructure

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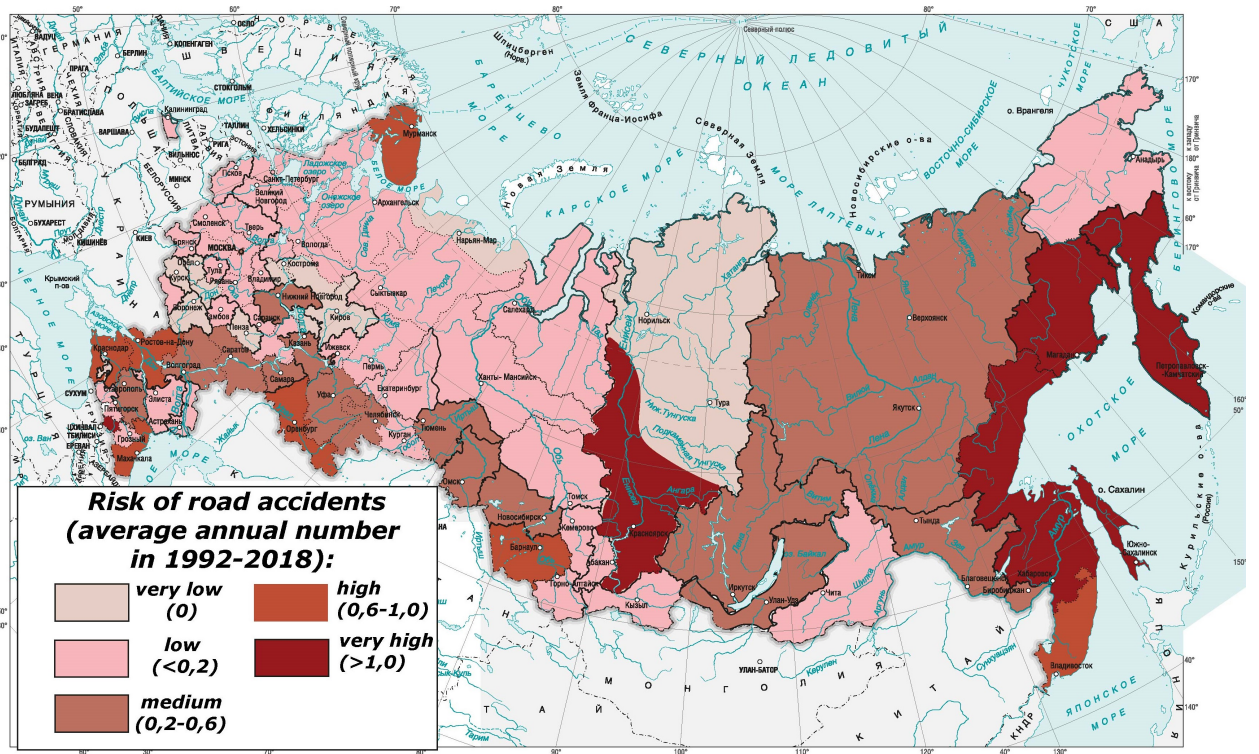
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1127 **Figure 2: Federal regions of the Russian Federation**

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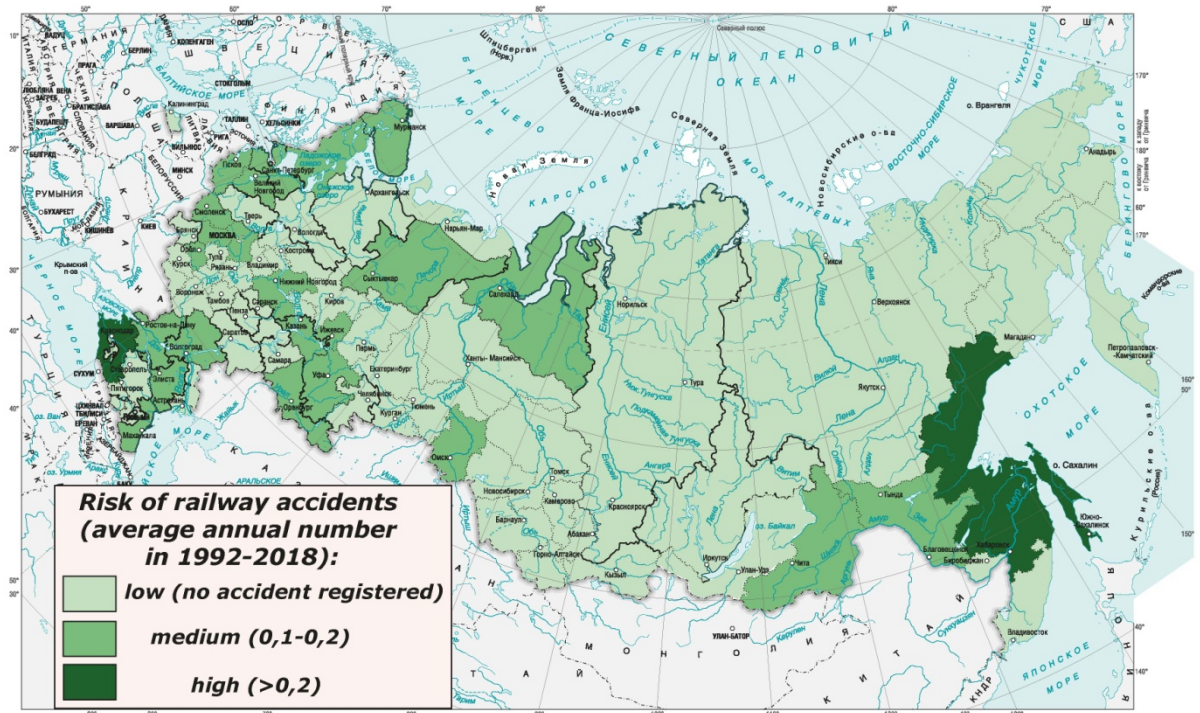


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1132 **Figure 3:** Risk of road accidents and traffic disruptions triggered by natural hazards in the RF  
 1133 (base map: © DIK - Publishing House Design. Information. Cartography)

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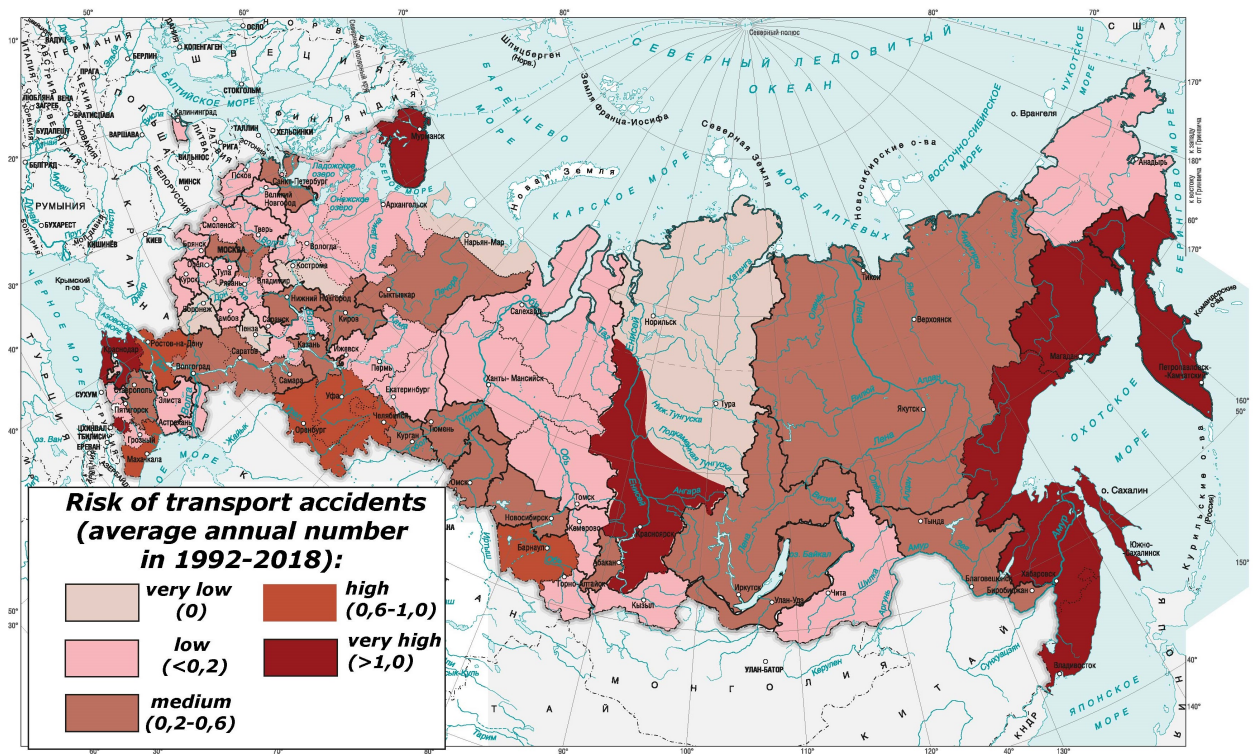


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1137 **Figure 4: Risk of railway accidents and traffic disruptions triggered by natural hazards in the RF**  
 1138 **(base map: © DIK - Publishing House Design. Information. Cartography)**

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1142 **Figure 5:** Risk of transport accidents and disruptions triggered by natural hazards in the RF

1143 (base map: © DIK - Publishing House Design. Information. Cartography)

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