



SINKHOLES

BURIED ALIVE

1 X 53 HD



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CONTACT

Tom Koch, Vice President
PBS International
10 Guest Street
Boston, MA 02135 USA

TEL: 617-300-3893
FAX: 617-779-7900

jt Koch@pbs.org
pbsinternational.org

In Tampa, Florida, on February 2013, a giant hole opened up under the bedroom floor of Jeffrey Bush, swallowing the 36 year-old as he slept. His body was never found. Bush was a victim of a sinkhole—a growing worldwide hazard that lurks wherever limestone and other water-soluble rocks underpin the soil. When carbon dioxide in the air dissolves in rainwater, it forms a weak acid that attacks the soft rocks, riddling them with holes like Swiss cheese. Sinkholes can occur gradually when the surface subsides into bowl shaped depressions; or suddenly, when the ground gives way—often catastrophically. Sinkholes have swallowed highways, apartment buildings, horses, camels, and even golfers with monster-size holes cracking the earth from Siberia to Louisiana.

Filled with compelling eyewitness video of dramatic collapses, and following scientists as they explore the underlying forces behind these natural disasters, NOVA travels the globe to investigate what it's like to have your world vanish beneath your feet.

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CREDITS

Writer, Producer, Director: Larry Klein

Senior Series Producer for NOVA: Melanie Wallace

Senior Executive Producer for NOVA: Paula S. Apsell

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