

Discussion Draft

Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

8 January 2009, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Department of Commerce, Room 5215

Italics indicate absent members. "T" indicate members participating via teleconference.

Officers

David Applegate (USGS), Chair
Margaret Davidson (NOAA), Vice-Chair (T)
Dennis Wenger (NSF), Vice-Chair

NSTC Liaison

Jonathan Kolak (OSTP)

Designated Representatives

BLM *Edwin Roberson*

Ronald Huntsinger

CDC Mark Keim (T)

DHS Bruce Davis

DHS/FEMA Mike Buckley

DHS/USCG *Steven Cohen*

DOD *Al Johnson*

DOE *Patricia Hoffman*

DOT *Sheila Duwadi*

Cheryl McQueary

Tim Schmidt

EOP/OSTP Jonathan Kolak

EDA *Audrey Clarke*

EPA *Peter Jutro*

Stephen Clark

FERC *Berne Mosley*

HUD *David Engel*

NASA

NGA *Stephen Homeyer*

NGB *Daniel Bochicchio*

NIH *Allen Dearry*

NIST *William Grosshandler*

Jack Hayes

NOAA Margaret Davidson (T)

NSF Dennis Wenger

OPHS Sven Rodenbeck (T)

State Cari Enav

Fernando Echavarria

USACE *Barbara J. Sotirin*

Dimitra Syriopoulou

USAID Sezin Tokar

USDA *Melissa Simpson*

USFS *Susan Conard*

USGS David Applegate

Paula Gori

Other Attendees

DHS/FEMA Stephen Carruth

EPA Janis Johnston

NASA James McGuire

Shahid Habib

NOAA John Gaynor

Nell Codner

Maria Honeycutt

NGA Dana L. Miller

NGB Dave Wilmot

Lisa Burg

NIST Jay Harris

Kevin Wong

NSF Robert O'Connor

USFS Michael Hilbruner

USGS Lucy Jones

Secretariat Emily Wallace

Ross Faith

Agenda

10:00 Welcome and Introductions

10:05 Approval of December Meeting Minutes

10:10 Report from the Chair

10:20 Report from the Vice-Chairs

10:30 Report from the NSTC Liaison

10:45 Update on Annual Hazards Research and

Applications Workshop Planning

10:55 SDR as National Platform for the

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

11:10 Presentation

11:55 Close and Next Actions

Handouts

- Agenda
- December Meeting Minutes
- GCRP-SDR-USGEO One-Pager
- CENR Clearance Memorandum

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I. Call to Order and Introductions

Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction (SDR) Chair David Applegate (USGS) called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

II. Approval of November Meeting Minutes

Dennis Wenger (NSF) indicated that page 4, paragraph 3 of the December Meeting Minutes should be amended to state that the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), rather than its Science Advisory Committee (SAC), is the body responsible for producing the items enumerated in this paragraph. The SDR Secretariat amended the December Meeting Minutes per Wenger's suggestion. The Minutes were then approved without further alteration.

III. Report from the Chair

Subcommittee Chair David Applegate (USGS) began by reporting that a series of low magnitude earthquakes occurred in Yellowstone National Park in late December and early January. While earthquake "swarms" are not uncommon in the area, the number of distinct earthquakes in this particular swarm was higher than usual.

Applegate (USGS) then explained that, in an illegal action, the website "www.worldwaterplan.com" used the USGS logo and lifted additional information from the Yellowstone Volcano Observatory website in an attempt to lend credibility to its claim that these earthquakes would release poisonous gas built up beneath Yellowstone, requiring an evacuation of the park. The counterfeit website appeared legitimate enough to prompt several people to call authorities about the phony warning. No such elevated danger exists, reported Applegate.

The SDR Chair next informed members that Bill Leith (USGS) is coordinating the disasters portion of the U.S. Group on Earth Observations (USGEO) Strategic Assessment Document, entitled: *Observing Earth's Vital Signs (USGEO Strategic Assessment of Earth Observations: Part I)*. The document draws upon cross-cutting analysis of requirements for Earth observations and includes a portfolio of recommendations to maximize benefits for society. Currently in an advanced stage of drafting, the document will be circulated to USGEO agency representatives in the coming weeks for comment.

IV. Report from the Vice-Chairs

Vice-Chair Margaret Davidson (NOAA) reminded members that SDR is looking to unlock latent synergies in the fields of climate adaptation, disaster reduction, and Earth observations by teaming up with sister National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) subcommittees: USGEO and the Global Change Research Program (GCRP).

Davidson (NOAA) directed members to find within their meeting folders a one-pager outlining this opportunity to leverage federal investment dollars. Davidson invited SDR members to submit comments on the plan therein laid forth to SDR Secretariat Emily Wallace (ewallace@grs-solutions.com) by January 16th, 2009. After the document is further flushed out and amended by SDR Leadership, it will be passed on to the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) for review.

V. Report from the NSTC Liaison

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NSTC Liaison Jon Kolak (OSTP) happily reported progress in the clearance process of the 15th *Grand Challenges for Disaster Reduction Implementation Plan: Space Weather*, which was recently forwarded to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (CENR) for approval by January 15th, 2009.

Kolak (OSTP) again regretfully informed members that CENR Executive Director Christyl Johnson was unable to attend this month's SDR meeting. Kolak expected her to pay the SDR a visit after the administration changeover. Members who had yet to take action were also reminded to login on the OMB MAX Portal, familiarize themselves with its operation, and edit their professional titles. Instructions per this request will be re-circulated to members next week.

Kolak (OSTP) also noted that OSTP held a joint workshop on January 7th with the Climate Change Science Program (CCSP) to yield cross-cutting analysis of resource management and regulation at the decadal scale. Kolak mentioned he would circulate a summary of the workshop to SDR members.

Briefly, Kolak (OSTP) stated that he will be taking action in January to reconvene the original WindHRP working group in order to produce a status report in March.

Also on the OSTP January "to-do" list, Kolak (OSTP) indicated he would be working towards clearing SDR's response to NOAA's request for guidance regarding "Satellite Resolution Requirements for Disaster Reduction."

VI. Update on Annual Hazards Research and Applications Workshop Planning

David Applegate (USGS) announced that the 2009 Annual Hazards Research and Application Workshop will be held July 14th—17th at the Omni Interlocken Resort, just outside Boulder, Colorado. Members who wish to attend should ask Emily Wallace (ewallace@grs-solutions.com) to facilitate their invitation.

Unable to attend a recent meeting of the workshop planning committee himself, Applegate (USGS) reported that Paula Gori had stepped into the breach. The workshop Plenary will feature sessions on:

- 1) the Great Southern California ShakeOut
- 2) the role of the hazards community within the climate change paradigm
- 3) the effects of economic stagnation on public works
- 4) assessing the role of Federal, State, and local authorities in hazard preparedness and response

Applegate (USGS) invited members to contact him or Emily Wallace (ewallace@grs-solutions.com) with speaker suggestions for these topics.

VII. SDR as National Platform for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

In turning to the subcommittee's next matter of business, David Applegate (USGS) quickly recounted events of December, 2005, when Mark Lagon, then Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Organization Affairs at the Department of State (DOS/IO), requested that the SDR serve as the U.S. National Platform for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR).

Against this backdrop, Applegate (USGS) introduced Cari Enav (DOS/IO) and explained that State's Bureau of International Organization Affairs is seeking opinions from SDR members as to whether ISDR's productivity and contribution within the disaster reduction field merit significant investments of time and money from the U.S. government.

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Cari Enav (DOS/IO) added to Applegate's comments noting that the ISDR is currently requesting U.S. financial support, which, though provided in the past, is not currently flowing. Enav noted that ISDR has grown its program portfolio to include projects with the World Health Organization and the World Bank. Enav felt that SDR member opinion would help determine the worth of underwriting ISDR efforts as well as the best manner, strategy, or channel, etc. to engage with this United Nations group.

Dennis Wenger (NSF) stated that he sits on the ISDR Science and Technology Advisory Panel and would be a logical person to spearhead the aggregation of SDR member opinion.

Shahid Habib (NASA) noted that the National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA) regularly interacts with the World Bank and might be a good resource in answering Enav's question. Emily Wallace will provide Cari Enav with Shahid Habib's contact information.

The Secretariat will also circulate the Hyogo Framework to members for comment, noting that querying the U.S. National Platform (SDR) equates to a narrower survey than casting a wider net across the agencies.

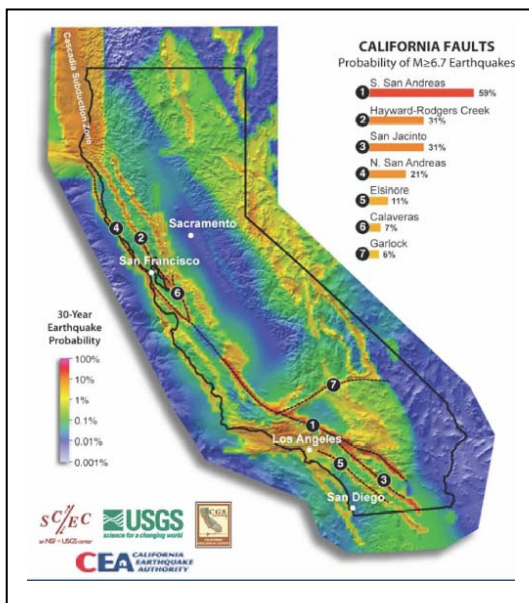
In addition, the Secretariat will send the Early Warning Survey for approval by the Department of State prior to submitting it to ISDR.

David Applegate (USGS) noted that upcoming meetings of the ISDR will be held during March in Panama and June in Geneva, Switzerland.

James McGuire (NASA) also noted that Japan and the United States will each be launching a new carbon observing satellite this winter. The Japanese GOSAT (Greenhouse gases Observing Satellite) will launch on January 21st; launch of U.S. OCO (Orbiting Carbon Observatory) Satellite is scheduled for February 23rd.

VIII. Presentation: Great Southern California ShakeOut – Lucy Jones, USGS

Lucy Jones, Chief Scientist of the USGS Multi-Hazards Demonstration Project, treated SDR members to an in-depth presentation recounting the Great Southern California ShakeOut, held November 12th—16th, 2008 in the greater Los Angeles area.



Jones (USGS) relayed to members the ShakeOut's ambitious objective: to change and deepen the culture of earthquake preparedness in Southern California. Second, she stressed, the project was intended to demonstrate how science can improve a community's resiliency to natural hazards. Also important to event planners, explained Jones, was that the scenario be plausible, credible, and accessible to the broader public.

Enlisting stakeholders from Earth science through engineering to economics, disaster psychology, and related fields, the ShakeOut encompassed a comprehensive portfolio of workshops, community dialogues, conferences, and an earthquake drill in which 5.47 million Californians participated.

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Jones (USGS) reported that over 300 scientists from more than 50 organizations collaborated to develop a scenario in which a major seismic event would rock Southern California, testing its emergency response capacity.

Although several active faults crisscross Southern California, the ShakeOut planning team modeled a scenario in which a 4.8 magnitude earthquake propagated northward from the southern terminus of the San Andreas Fault. These choices were made because the San Andreas has name recognition with the public and translating the effects of this particular type of San Andreas earthquake from scientific jargon into layman's terms is relatively straightforward.

Jones (USGS) explained that emergency response managers and public leaders took several important lessons away from the ShakeOut. First, the scenario demonstrated that local fire fighting resources would be woefully inadequate and major highways into LA critically damaged at the fault line, thereby preventing fire engines from Arizona and elsewhere from reaching LA. As a direct result of the ShakeOut, emergency response policy has been changed to so that firefighters will no longer conduct an initial city-wide assessment of fire outbreaks in the wake of a major earthquake. Instead, the job has been tasked to police in order to free firefighters to battle actual blazes immediately following a quake, thus maximizing resources and reducing damage.

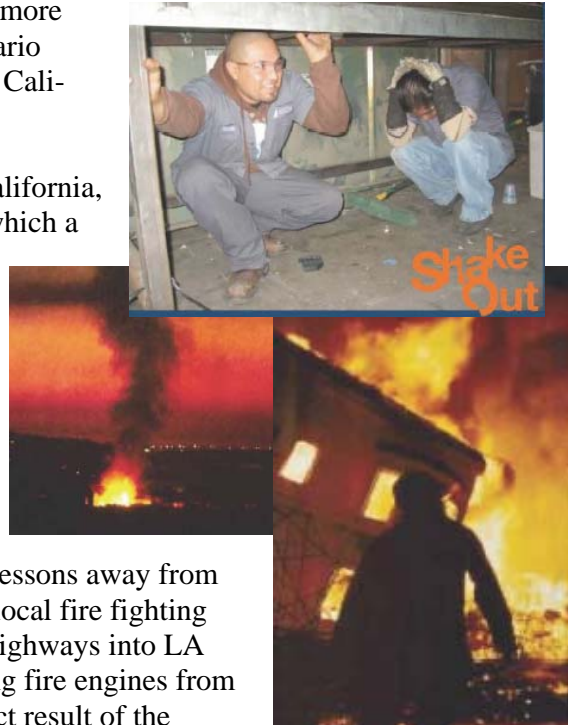
Jones (USGS) noted that the example of shifting responsibilities between the fire and police departments is indicative of a broader lesson learned from the ShakeOut. The lesson imparted was that authorities cannot respond adequately to fires after such an earthquake; therefore, short of increasing the size of the fire department four-fold, the only rational response to the problem is mitigation.

The ShakeOut was also organized on principles of disaster response psychology, Jones (USGS) explained, as part of an effort to maximize participation in and effectiveness of the ShakeOut exercise. Emergency response managers and public officials spread the ShakeOut message utilizing the following tactics:

- 1) Consistent Messaging of a what to do: "Drop, Cover, Hold On"
- 2) Visual Reinforcement to maximize the natural inclination to do what others do ("monkey see, monkey do")
- 3) Encourage Milling by holding the same drill at schools, businesses, public offices, etc., just before the Thanksgiving holiday, thereby increasing discussion of the ShakeOut
- 4) Create Consequences, not risks, of not being prepared

In closing, Jones (USGS) noted that despite considerable enthusiasm to turn the ShakeOut into an annual event because it was so successful, the vast resources and energy required to do so make that unlikely. Jones stated that next year the USGS Multi-Hazards Demonstration Project will focus on mitigating California's winter storms.

For more information on the ShakeOut, go to <http://www.shakeout.org>
The ShakeOut video can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=opXZY1zZ8xk>



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VII. Close and Next Actions

David Applegate (USGS) thanked Lucy Jones (USGS) for her presentation. He stated that the next SDR meeting will be held February 5th, 2008.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

IX. Future Meetings

The SDR meets on the first or second Thursday of every month from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

February 5, 2009	June 4, 2009	October 1, 2009
March 5, 2009	July 2, 2009	November 5, 2009
April 2, 2009	August 6, 2009	December 3, 2009
May 7, 2009	September 3, 2009	

X. Agenda Items and Other Communications with the Subcommittee

Please send proposed agenda items and any other items intended for distribution to the full Subcommittee to Emily Wallace (ewallace@grs-solutions.com).

XI. Contact Information SDR Leadership

David Applegate, Chair, 703-648-6714, applegate@usgs.gov

Margaret Davidson, Vice Chair, 843-740-1220, Margaret.davidson@noaa.gov

Dennis Wenger, Vice Chair, (703) 292-8606, dwenger@nsf.gov

Secretariat

Emily Wallace, 703-560-7448, ewallace@grs-solutions.com

XII. Summary of January Actions

Action	Lead	By When
SDR financial support: Contact Dave (applegate@usgs.gov) if you would like a personalized support request letter to your agency.	SDR Members	Standing
Contact Emily (ewallace@grs-solutions.com) to receive copies of the Grand Challenges for Disaster Reduction Implementation Plan packets or CD.	SDR Members	Standing
Let Emily or Dave know how you use the implementation plans, including when you link to the plans from your agency websites.	SDR Members	Standing
Send Emily or Dave additional distribution suggestions, including relevant contact information.	SDR Members	Standing
Let Emily know if you are interested in funding the National Research Council Study on Measuring Community Resiliency.	SDR Members	ASAP
Let Emily know if you are interested in attending the Annual Hazards Workshop in Boulder (ewallace@grs-solutions.com).	SDR Members	ASAP
Send a follow-up email reminding members to enter their titles on OMB MAX.	Secretariat	January 14, 2009

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Circulate CCSP-OSTP climate change workshop summary to SDR Members.	Jon Kolak	January 14, 2009
Send comments on GCRP-SDR-USGEO one-pager to Emily (ewallace@grs-solutions.com).	SDR Members	January 16, 2009
Circulate the Hyogo Framework to members for comment.	Secretariat	January 16, 2009
Enter titles on OMB MAX.	SDR Members	January 31, 2009
Send Dennis Wenger (dwenger@nsf.gov) thoughts regarding ISDR's productivity and contribution within the disaster reduction field.	SDR Members	January 31, 2009
Send David Applegate (applegate@usgs.gov) and/or Emily Wallace (ewallace@grs-solutions.com) speaker suggestions for the Annual Hazards Research and Applications Planning Workshop plenary sessions.	SDR Members	January 31, 2009