



Haiti, 2010

Natural Hazards Center University of Colorado Boulder

Kathleen Tierney

Dept. of Sociology & Institute of Behavioral Science

Director, Natural Hazards Center

NATURAL
HAZARDS
CENTER



The Hazards Center

- Established in 1976 by geographer Gilbert White
- Funded by grants from the National Science Foundation, funds from federal agencies such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U. S. Geological survey, and private sector contributions

NHC Mission Statement

The mission of the Natural Hazards Center at the University of Colorado at Boulder is to advance and communicate knowledge on hazards mitigation and disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. Using an all-hazards and interdisciplinary framework, the Center fosters information sharing and integration of activities among researchers, practitioners, and policy makers from around the world; supports and conducts research; and provides educational opportunities for the next generation of hazards scholars and professionals.

Hazards Center Staff

- Faculty director, 3 additional Ph.D. researchers (sociology, psychology, international disaster mental health)
- Administrative staff
- Professional librarian
- Editors (2)
- IT and web services
- Graduate research assistants (4)
- Undergraduate support staff, both paid and volunteer

Hazards Center Priority Areas



- Knowledge Transfer and Clearinghouse Activities
- Research

Hazards Center Library

Largest Web-linked library in the world addressing societal aspects of hazards and disasters

- Over 30,000 books, articles, reports, journals
- Materials being digitized and added to online databases
- Customized information requests



Center Products and Communication Activities

- *Natural Hazards Observer* 4,200 subscribers
- *Disaster Research*
("DR—News you can use") 6,300 subscribers
- *Disaster Grads* listserv 1,194 subscribers
- NHC on Twitter at "HazCenter" 6,320 followers
- #6 on Google searches for "natural hazards"
- *Natural Hazards Review*—ASCE Journal

Natural Hazards Workshop

Held annually In July

Goals:

- **To strengthen links among the nation's research, policy, and applications communities**
- **To facilitate discussions among participants**

Addresses topics of current and ongoing interest, recent extreme events



Natural Hazards Workshop

Total of 795 attendees, last two years

Followed by two one-day symposia:

**Natural Hazards Mitigation Association
International Research Committee on
Disasters**

**Many ancillary meetings and events—including
SDR events**

Quick Response Research Grants

- **Small grants enabling social and behavioral scientists to travel to disaster-stricken areas immediately after impact in order to gather perishable data**
- **Currently 253 quick response reports available online**

Center Web Site: <http://www.colorado.edu/hazards>

- Information on the Center
- Newsletters
- On-line library database
- Working papers
- Quick response reports
- Annotated bibliographies
- Links to other organizations
- Grant-related information
- Other information resources

54,000 unique visitors and 137,000 page views, Jan. 1, 2015 to Jan. 1, 2016

Research Program: Recent & Current Projects

- **Development of Community Disaster Resilience Framework and Community Planning Guide—NIST**
- **Long-Term Community Impacts of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Litigation and Settlement—NSF**
- **Community Impacts of the December, 2008 TVA Coal Ash Spill—NSF**
- **Evaluation of USGS hazards scenarios—USGS**

Research Program: Recent & Current Projects

- **Community Impacts of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill—NSF RAPID**
- **Economic Resilience Following Superstorm Sandy—NSF**
- **Return on Investment from Community-Based Preparedness Activities—FEMA**
- **Mental Health and Disaster Preparedness in Haiti and Nepal—Department for International Development, United Kingdom**

Other Center Activities: Examples

Associate Director Liesel Ritchie:

**NIST Community Disaster Resilience Fellow
Member, NAS Committee to Advise the Gulf Research Program
EERI Research Team, Christchurch Earthquakes**

Director Kathleen Tierney:

**NAS Committee to Advise the US
Global Change Research Program
EERI Reconnaissance Team, 2011
Japan earthquake/tsunami
Former vice president, honorary
member, EERI
Strategic Planning Committee,
William A. Anderson Fund**



**EERI Post-Earthquake
Reconnaissance, Japan, 2011**

The Center Needs Your Support!

How You Can Help

Support all operations for 1 month	\$66,000
Support the publication of the <i>Observer</i> newsletter for 1 year	\$100,000
Support a Center graduate research assistant for 1 year	\$30,000
Support social media activities and online newsletter	\$100,000
Other: workshop coffee breaks, travel subsidies, library digitization project	Let's talk!

Natural Hazards Center

University of Colorado
Institute of Behavioral
Science

1440 15th Street

Boulder, CO 80309

Phone: (303) 492-6818

Web: www.colorado.edu/hazards

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