Natural Hazards Center
University of Colorado

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Meeting of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction, Feb. 4, 2010, Washington DC
The Hazards Center

- Established in 1976
- Funded by grants from NSF and funds from other agencies and organizations: FEMA, NOAA, NASA, DOT, CDC, ACE, DHS and others
- Guided by a National Advisory Committee

Federal agencies
Academics
State & Local Govt.
Private Sector
Hazards Center Priority Areas

- Information Clearinghouse and Knowledge-Transfer Activities
- Research Program
Hazards Center Staff

Director

Clearinghouse
- Program Manager
- Office Manager
- 2 Editors
- Library Manager
- Research Assistants

Research
- 3 Ph.D. Researchers
- 4 Doctoral Students
- Research Assistants
- Affiliated Research Faculty
Clearinghouse Services & Activities

- Library and Information Services
- Information Products
- Web site
- Annual Workshop
- Quick Response
- Research Grants
- Publications
- Serving Diverse Audiences
- Organizational and Public Outreach
Hazards Center Library

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

- Over 30,000 books, articles, reports, journals
- Web-searchable “Hazlit” database
- Customized information requests

http://www.colorado.edu/hazards
Center Information Products

- Newsletter: *Natural Hazards Observer*
- *Disaster Research* (DR)
- *Disaster Grads*
- *Natural Hazards Informer*
- *Natural Hazards Review*—ASCE Journal
- Books, Reports, Papers, Monographs
- Research Digest
- Twitter Feeds at “HazCenter”
Center Web Site: http://www.colorado/hazards

- Information on the Center
- Newsletters
- On-line library database
- Working papers
- Quick response reports
- Summaries from annual workshops
- Annotated bibliographies
- Links to other organizations, Web sites
- Conferences and training announcements
- Grant-related information
Natural Hazards Workshop

- Held annually in July—in 2010 from July 10-13

- Goals:
  - Strengthen links among the research, policy, and end-user communities
  - Facilitate discussions among participants
  - Address topics of current and ongoing interest, recent disaster events, policies

- 2009: 450 attendees from the U. S. and 14 other countries
Quick Response Research Grants

- Enabling social and behavioral scientists to travel to disaster-stricken areas immediately after impact in order to gather perishable data

- Two largest funding efforts to date: September 11 terrorist attacks and Hurricane Katrina

http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/qr/qr.html
Quick-Response Research Publications

Beyond September 11: An Account of Post-Disaster Research (2003)
Recent Special Projects

- Dissertation Enrichment Fellowships, sponsored by NSF and PERI
- Updated Report (post-Katrina) on “Sustainable Disaster Recovery”
- Report for NRC Transportation Research Board on Transportation Systems and Disasters
Quick-Response Research Publications

Learning from Catastrophe (2006)
Quick Response Research for Haiti Earthquake

- 1 project currently in the field: NHC Assistant Director Liesel Ritchie is in Haiti now
- 2 projects cleared for activation when travel plans are finalized
- 2 projects pending, conditional on favorable proposal reviews
- 20 additional inquiries that may result in QR proposals and subsequent funding
Organizational and Public Outreach

Center staff maintains an extensive network of relationships with key agencies and organizations in the disaster loss reduction arena.

Staff speak regularly at meetings of scholarly and professional associations, including international meetings.
Organizational and Public Outreach

- Staff are extensively involved in interactions with print and electronic media outlets

- Example: Providing context and scientific insights on the Haiti earthquake: CNN, NPR, AP interviews that generated numerous print and electronic reports
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