

Presentation Abstracts – Concurrent Session 4

*Presenters and their associations are highlighted.

- ❖ **Changwon Son, Farzan Sasangohar, Camille Peres, **Jukrin Moon****
Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, TAMU
Five Functions that Made an Incident Management Team Resilient during Hurricane Harvey
Abstract:
While resilience in emergency management has been studied at the macro- (government) and micro-levels (individual field responder), little is known for resilience of incident management teams (IMTs) operating at the meso-level. To investigate challenges and resilience factors of IMTs, we conducted semi-structured interviews with 10 personnel who worked at the IMTs during Hurricane Harvey in 2017. A thematic analysis of interview transcripts generated five categories of resilient functions of the IMTs: i) establishing common operating picture, ii) adopting and adapting plans and protocols, iii) proactive, sacrificing, and innovative decision-making, iv) enhancing resourcefulness, and v) learning for increased knowledge and resources. Given unique challenges and goals to be accomplished during Hurricane Harvey, our study finds that the IMT operated as an adaptive cognitive system that was able to adjust its performance by exhibiting the five functions. Findings of this study will inform the development of more resilient IMTs in future disasters.
- ❖ **David Bierling, Brad Trefz, George Rogers**
Texas A&M Transportation Institute, Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center, TAMU
Texas' New Guide for Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning
Abstract:
Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) and Texas A&M Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center recently developed updated guidance for Texas Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs). These groups are required for every community to plan for hazardous materials emergencies. LEPCs can also help local officials improve planning for other types of emergencies and disasters. The updated guide includes 12 modules that are designed to function independently on different key areas. Modules start with basic takeaways for readers, and end with describing action items that LEPCs at basic, intermediate and advanced levels could be doing, and how they can do it. The guide also includes an executive primer and a section on 17 planning project ideas to help LEPCs engage their members, stakeholders and communities. The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) and TTI sponsored the project and the combined documents are currently available as a single file on TDEM's preparingtexas.org Web page.
- ❖ **Laura M. Stough, Kayla S. Sweet, Marcia L. Montague**
Department of Educational Psychology, TAMU
Resources for Disasters and Disability (REDDy) Directory Providing Independence and Resilience Post Hurricane Harvey
Abstract:

Individuals with disabilities and/or functional and access needs face more barriers and take longer to recover from disaster. The Center on Disability and Development and the Texas Center for Disability Studies developed the REsources for Disasters and Disability (REDDy) Directory to support Hurricane Harvey survivors. REDDy is an online searchable guide with disability-related resources, services, and information designed to search by key word (e.g., medical equipment) or resource type (e.g., housing). Utilized by disability and disaster-related organizations, disaster case managers, and individuals with disabilities, REDDy bridges disability- and disaster-related supports; thus, supporting independence and resilience. Across the first year REDDy contained 178 resources/services. In creating REDDy we found: (a) finding resources/services post-disaster is challenging since needs fluctuate quickly, (b) organizations do not have time to update their own information, (c) available resources decreased within months post-disaster, and (d) maintaining the directory entailed 8-hours a week for the first 2 months post-disaster.

- ❖ **W. Timothy Coombs, Sherry J. Holladay**
Department of Communication, TAMU

The Discourse of Resilience: The Value of Instructing and Adjusting Information

Abstract:

Resilience has multiple levels including community, organizational, and individual resilience. Individual resilience might be the most critical because it is a building block for the other levels. This presentation will focus on the discourse of resilience that can be used to enhance and to promote individual resilience. We will discuss instructing and adjusting information as critical elements of the discourse of resilience. Instructing information tells people how to protect themselves physically from the disaster while adjusting information helps people to cope psychologically with the disaster. The presentation begins by defining instructing and adjusting information and how these messages related to various phases of the disaster management process. We then shift to how this discourse can build resilience by enhancing self-efficacy (person can enact the behaviors) and plan efficacy (the behaviors will make them safer). Plan and self-efficacy are key variables in EPPM for encouraging people to engage in desirable behaviors.