The Macedon Digest

The Australian Newsletter Journal on Disaster Management

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INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION (IDNDR)

At its 42nd session, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted Resolution 42/169, by which it decided to designate the 1990's as an International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR), with the general objective:

"to reduce through concerted international actions, especially in developing countries, loss of life, property damage and economic disruption caused by natural disasters such as earthquakes, windstorms, (cyclones, hurricanes, tornadoes, typhoons), tsunamis, floods, landslides, volcanic eruptions, wildfires and other calamities of natural origin such as grasshopper and locust infestations."

" ...the General Assembly of the United Nations decided to designate the 1990's as an International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR).... "

The General Assembly requested the Secretary General to develop an appropriate framework, to attain specific objectives and goals. To assist him, the Secretary General established an Ad Hoc International Group of Experts, with expertise in the relevant scientific disciplines, as well as experts in disaster relief operations. This group which has met four times, includes as a member, Mr N.P. Cheney, Director National Bushfire Research Unit of the CSIRO.

Following its third meeting, the Ad Hoc Group report to the Secretary General included the following statement:

"In the last 20 years, it has been estimated that natural phenomena have killed around three million people throughout the world. Up to one billion people have probably been adversely affected by natural disasters and suffered devastating hardships, ill health and severe economic loss. In the 12 months spent preparing this report, two earthquakes in Armenia have killed more than 35,000 people, floods in Bangladesh claimed 1,500 lives and disadvantaged 45 million people and Hurricane Gilbert raged through the Caribbean Islands, causing physical damage and economic losses running into millions of dollars."

When the Ad Hoc Group has concluded its task, a Secretariat which has already been established at UNDRO General Headquarters, will coordinate participation at an international level. Australian involvement has been agreed and Major General B.W. Howard, AM, MC, Director General of the Natural Disasters Organisation, will chair the Australian Coordinating Committee.

" In the last 20 years, it has been estimated that natural phenomena have killed around three million people throughout the world. "

It is intended that Australian contributions will be a combination of domestic and regional projects. The Australian committee will include representatives from the Departments of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Primary Industries and Energy, Administrative Services, Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories, CSIRO and relevant scientific bodies.

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REFLECTIONS

In 1958, the then Governor of Western Australia , Sir Charles Gairdner, exhibited a high degree of foresight in predicting the need for an "all hazards" approach to emergency management. The "Western Australian" of 17 January 1958, reported that upon his return from the fires at Mayanyup, Sir Charles appealed for :

> **"...the introduction of some sort of civil defence....scheme organised on a broad base because, unlike many defence arrangements, a civil defence scheme could be of the greatest use in peace as well as war - particularly perhaps in this very problem of fire fighting."**

It is now generally agreed amongst governments, that provided special requirements to meet the different hazards are identified, the same planning process and organisational structure are appropriate, no matter what the hazard may be.

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EDUCATION

ACDC PROGRAM

2 July to 15 December 1989

- ❖ Workshop - Perception of Risk (1164) 2-7 July
- ❖ Introduction to Disaster Management (1166) 9-14 July
- ❖ CD Planning (1167) 16-21 July
- ❖ Workshop - Development of Local Planning Courses (1168) 16-21 July
- ❖ External NSW - Introduction to Disaster Management (1170) 30 July - 4 August
- ❖ External SA - Introduction to Disaster Management (1171) 6-11 August
- ❖ Response Management (1172) 20-25 August
- ❖ Hazard Analysis for Disaster Managers (1173) 27 August - 1 September
- ❖ Introduction to Disaster Management (1175) 3-8 September
- ❖ Development of Australian Emergency Manuals Workshop (1176) 3-8 September
- ❖ Evacuation Management (1177) 10-15 September
- ❖ Seminar - Prevention/Mitigation (1178) 17-22 September
- ❖ External QLD - Introduction to Disaster Management (1179) 24-29 September
- ❖ Response Management (1180) 1-6 October
- ❖ Workshop - Hazard Warning Systems (1181) 8-13 October
- ❖ External QLD - Local CD Planning (1183) 15-20 October
- ❖ External SA - Local CD Planning (1184) 22-27 October
- ❖ External NSW - Introduction to Disaster Management (1185) 29 October - 3 November
- ❖ External WA - Local CD Planning (1186) 5-10 November
- ❖ Workshop - Study Topic TBA (1188) 12-17 November
- ❖ Recovery Management (1189) 19-24 November
- ❖ Operational Disaster Management (1191) 26 November - 8 December
- ❖ External Workshop TBA (1192) 10-15 December

Details about these activities are contained in the 1989/90 ACDC Handbook; or contact the College direct on (054) 261205.

ACDC FUTURE TRENDS IN DISASTER WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

This Workshop was held at the College from the 2 to 5 April 1989. The aim of the Workshop was "to define, examine and propose goals and strategies for both present and possible future trends in disaster and interactions between future hazards and communities in Australia".

The Workshop was attended by eighteen members representing relevant Commonwealth, State and local government departments and agencies, the research community, the insurance industry and interested others, including members of the working party.

According to the Workshop, the following general considerations should be given due recognition, in addressing the trends and problems identified by the Workshop:

- ❑ demographic trends needed to be acknowledged, such as the effects of ageing population, changing ethnic and locational patterns and the resulting possible problems with hazard interaction;
- ❑ similarly, social trends also needed to be considered, especially to the extent that social marginalisation and other community developments could increase the relative vulnerabilities of particular sections of the community;
- ❑ essentially, Australia had a small and relatively short-time information base in relation to hazards, and there were identifiable limitations and problems in improving this information base, particularly in such areas as vector mapping, notifiable disease reporting and estimating the magnitude and frequency of extreme events;
- ❑ in the area of land management in particular, there were identifiable economic pressures which contributed to the problem;
- ❑ in almost all areas, there were issues of individual rights versus the 'common good' (the latter as often interpreted through specific policies and organisational goals) which were complex and needed to be addressed through appropriate consultative mechanisms;
- ❑ while public information and education programs were considered to be a common element in all strategies to address the requirements of future hazard management, it needed to be recognised that public information and education in themselves did not represent a total and universal 'fix' to the problems identified; and
- ❑ it was apparent that a high level of coordination was required, encompassing all agencies with a hazard management role, to ensure a coherent approach to future hazard management problems.

The Workshop recommended that :

a) Anational audit of hazard management capabilities needed to be conducted, using a matrix which examined the inter-relationships between:

- ❑ identified hazard groups,
- ❑ prevention/mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery capabilities, and
- ❑ present and estimated future requirements.

b) There should be an **appropriate ministerial** focus at the federal level to coordinate with the States and Territories and appropriate research, community and professional organisations a common approach to future hazard management,

c) As the Australian Counter Disaster College had done in relation to the conduct of national seminars and studies to address the exotic animal disease problem, sinilar studies should be programmed in the College's future National Counter-Disaster Studies Program to address, in particular:

- ❑ soil degradation, and
- ❑ human infectious disease,

targeting such groups as policy-makers, planners and professional/technical interest groups.

BUSHFIRE HAZARD MAPPING

David Goodwins from the Information Systems Branch of the South Australian Department of Environment and Planning, provides the following background about a database, used as an aid to bushfire management in the Adelaide Hills.

Introduction

In an area such as the Adelaide Hills, South Australia, a major bushfire event can threaten life, property and livestock; affect water quality, soil erosion and flooding potential; produce undesirable changes to plant and animal communities, and have widespread sociological effects. As the demand for development in such areas continues, it becomes increasingly important to develop management strategies to minimize the impact and cost of such an event. To fulfil this objective and to reduce the subjectivity in decision making, it is necessary to have quantitative information and a system which allows the storage, analysis and graphical output of this information. The South Australian Department of Environment and Planning has been utilizing the facilities of a Geographic Information System (GIS) to fulfil this task.

Background

The South Australian Department of Environment and Planning has a wide range of environmental management responsibilities including planning and research. The Information Systems Branch provides the department with the facilities to store, manipulate, model, analyse, and output digital information. This process was made easier by the acquisition of the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) software package which constitutes the basic building block for a system with GIS capabilities.

Basic components of a GIS

The components of a GIS fall into 4 main categories:

1. Data acquisition and input - assessing the data needs of users; finding sources of that data and converting the data into machine-readable form.
2. Data maintenance and storage-updating editing, checking of data and storage of that data in a convenient and accessible form.
3. Data analysis - statistical analysis, topographic analysis, map overlay and modelling.
4. Data retrival and display-output in the form of maps, tables and graphs producing formats for easy interpretation.

The ESRI system can handle polygon, line point and gridded data and convert between data types.

Adelaide Hills Resource Database:

The planning of a digital database for bushfire management in the Adelaide Hills was initiated prior to the second Ash Wednesday fire in 1983. The completion of this database has only just been realised, although components of it have already been used for internal and external projects.

The initial aim in producing a resource database for bushfire management was to collect data pertaining to the location and description of the physical, biological and land use/land cover factors which affect fire behaviour and fire protection management.

The sources of information are variable. Aerial photography was preferred as a basis for land use/land cover information, although Landsat imagery was used for the initial land cover mapping. Vegetation characteristics - fuel levels, structure and floristics - were sampled at 600 sites throughout the study area, then delineations between different structural and community types were mapped, using this information in conjunction with aerial photography.

Fire history mapping was undertaken using records kept by the Country Fire Service, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Meteorology, Adelaide University Geography Department and the Department of Lands.

The elevation data was derived from recent 1:50 000 topographic maps. This information was then used to derive slope and aspect.

Applications to Bushfire Management:

The emphasis is on any approach to bushfire management, should be on prevention. Pre-event planning can be simplified by identifying areas most susceptible to damage from bushfires, and examining resource allocation to these areas. This can be achieved through hazard mapping and optimization of resources.

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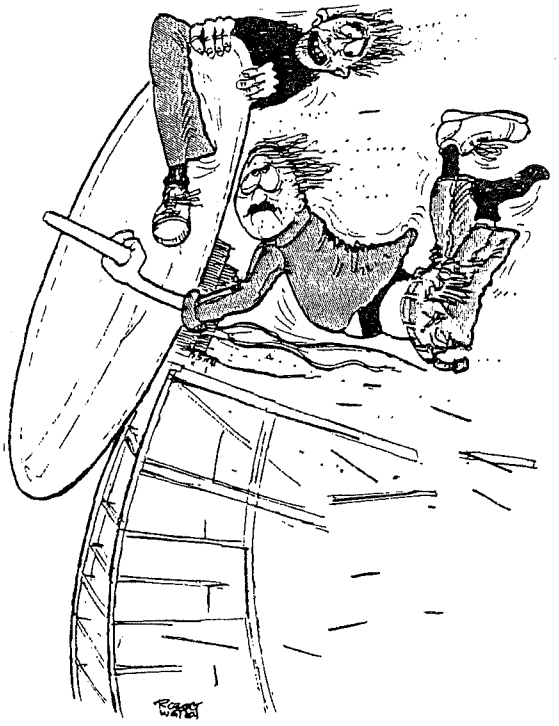
MURPHY'S

From "The Age" Odd Spot of Tuesday 25 April 1989, just to confirm the worst fears of the counter-disaster community that if something can go wrong, it will :

"A $500,000 Radar at Dampier, installed as an early cyclone-warning device, was blown away by Cyclone Orson yesterday morning - two hours before the worst of the storm hit the Western Australian coast."



" Are you sure the forecast was **REALLY** accurate?"

SOCIOLOGICAL STUDIES IN DISASTER

In this the first of a two-part feature article for TMD, Dr Neil Britton of the Cumberland College of Health Sciences in Sydney, examines organisational studies within the sociological field of disaster research. In this edition of TMD, Dr Britton briefly traces the general development of sociological studies in disaster, as a backdrop to developments within Australia. He specifically looks at the American scene, particularly the influence of the Disaster Research Center. In the September TMD, he will examine disaster sociology in Australia. Readers are invited to exchange views and opinions on Dr Britton's paper.

Introduction

When one looks at the history and development of sociology, either from an international or from an Australian perspective, one is immediately aware that the discipline is a very young one. If one accepts, as many do, that sociology began as a distinct form of social scientific inquiry when the French philosopher, August Comte, developed his "theory of social physics" in the latter part of the 1830s (and from whence the term "sociology" came into being), then sociology is about 150 years old. Comte regarded sociology as the science which would give coherence to all other social sciences, thereby welding the knowledge of each disciplines into a whole. All those who have since followed Comte in scientifically studying the nature of and the social forces within the social landscape, consider sociology to be the "science of society". The purpose of sociology is to systematically, scientifically and objectively analyse the patterns of social behaviour of people as they conduct their social roles. Sociology studies the patterns of social order, social processes, social structures, social institutions, social forces, and social movements. These are the building blocks of our society; and knowledge and understanding of them is fundamental to the maintenance and development of society.

"The sociological study of disaster within Australia....has sought to contribute knowledge about the theoretical and practical aspects of Australian disaster management and training"

The perspicacity of sociology has been especially fruitful in understanding the significance and role of complex organizations in the modern world. Public and business administration, management studies, work and employment studies, labour and industrial relations, are all significant contemporary areas which have roots in organizational sociology. Most of our current knowledge of organizational, work and management behaviour is also grounded on empirical observations and theories developed either within the framework of sociology or its (older) "sister" discipline, psychology.

In Australia, the first Department of Sociology was established at the University of New South Wales in 1958. Despite this short history sociologists have contributed immeasurably to the understanding of many facets of Australian society. The sociological study of disaster within Australia has a history of just over a decade, but in this time it has sought to contribute knowledge about the theoretical and practical aspects of Australian disaster management and planning. Many other social, behavioural, physical and engineering scientists have also contributed knowledge of hazards and disasters, and this knowledge combined has been used to assist Australian disaster services, the dedicated thousands of men and women who continually risk their lives for the safety of others, and the Australian community as a whole.

Disasters as a specialized area of sociological research

The study of organizations was firmly established in the early days of the discipline. Sociological research in disasters was not common until the 1950's and the study of organisations within the disaster context is even more recent.The first systematic study of a disaster is attributed to Samuel Prince, a Canadian, whose doctorate in political science from Harvard University described the organisational responses following a massive explosion at the Halifax (Nova Scotia) dockyard. The study was published in 1920 in a book entitled, "Catastrophe and Social Change". The importance of this study was not so much his description of the event itself but the theorectical assumptions he proposed which could be used to study other disasters. The next significant contribution occurred over a decade later when the American sociologist Lowell Carr, in 1932, published a theorectical article on the sequence of changes likely to occur following major unanticipated events. Another decade later, a Russian emigre to the USA, Pitirim Sorokin, who established the first Department of Sociology at Harvard University, wrote "Man and Society in Calamity" (1942), which endorsed the study of disasters as a legitimate field of sociological inquiry.

It was not until the 1950s that sustained and systematic sociological research in disaster began, however at this stage it was not international. With the exception of isolated case studies the majority of sociological research was conducted by Americans studying natural hazard impacts within the USA. During this period the primary institutional settings where disaster studies were conducted were the University of Chicago's National Opinion Research Center (NORC), and the National Academy of Sciences and National Research Council's (NAS-NRC) Disaster Research Group. The latter group also investigated some significant disaster impacts in other countries (for instance, the 1953 flood disaster in Holland; and flooding on the US-Mexico border in 1956). NORC and NAS-NRC sponsored several dozn disaster studies and explored several specific topics, the findings of which still have important policy and planning implications. Several sociologists whose names have since become synonymous with disaster studies were affiliated

with NORC, such as Bucher, Endleman, Fritz, Marks, and Quarantelli. Others, such as Baker, Bates, Chapman, Clifford, Killian, and Rosow were associated with NAS-NRC. Several other important disaster research pioneers, for instance, the anthropologist AFC Wallace, and psychologists Danzig, Janis, Perry, and Rayner, were also identified with NAS-NRC.

Several important sociological publications appeared during the 1950s. For example, in 1952 Louis Killian published a paper on the potential consequences of multiple-group membership in disaster, raising some interesting questions concerning the relationship between an individual's family and work roles. In 1954, Killian published a summary paper outlining some achievements in the new field of disaster studies in a special issue of The Journal of Social Issues. Of the seven contributions to the Journal, four were by sociologists, all of whom had NORC or NAS-NRC connections. This publication was the first special edition on disasters produced by an academic journal. Enrico Quarantelli's paper on the nature and conditions of panic also appeared in 1954, followed by another on the same topic in 1957. In 1955, Harry Moore and his colleagues published a study concentrating on the long-term adjustments to impact. During 1956 the NAS-NRC published a field guide for disaster investigators, and a study of people's response to an explosion, both written by Killian. Harry Williams was awarded a doctorate for a study of communications in disasters, and William Form and Charles Loomis' discussion of the functioning of social systems during disaster also appeared, as did a paper by Harry Moore in which he proposed a theory of disaster.

In 1957 several more important sociological contributions to disaster research appeared. Charles Fritz and Harry Williams were invited to contribute a joint article to the special issue of the Annals. Fritz and Mathewson produced a NAS-NRC monograph on convergence behaviour in disasters, and in another publication Fritz compared disaster impact in several USA communities. Moore published his text on "Tornadoes Over Texas"; and Fred Crawford was awarded a doctoral dissertation for research on family readjustment to disaster. Two journals, The Annuals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, and Human Organisation, published special issues on disasters. A year later, in 1958, one of the first hardback disaster sociology publications, "Community and Disaster", by William Form and Sigmund Nosow, was released. The decade ended with Moore and Friedsam publishing an article that discussed issues relating to emotional stress in the disaster context.

In the 1960s the pace quickened and many sociologically significant accounts of disaster impact were published. The numer of established scholars and graduate research students focussing primarily on disasters was not increasing rapidly, and the range of areas under study expanded considerably. Many more doctoral dissertations in "disaster sociology" were awarded. Much of the increased activity is directly attributable to the establishment of the Disaster Research Center in 1963, at The Ohio State University. This specific input will be discussed in more detail in the next section. It is impractical, if not impossible, to document all the disaster-relevant publications stemming from the increased sociological activity of this decade. However, several people and their works warrant mention. For instance, Quarantelli published a paper on family response to disaster in 1960; and in 1961, Fritz published his influential essay, "Disasters". This was supplemented by a second powerful Fritz composition in 1968 which was published in the eight-volume Encyclopedia of Social Sciences. In 1962 "Man and Society in Disaster", the first edited disaster text, was published. Edited by George Baker and Dwight Chapman the book contained fourteen original contributions to the growing body of disaster knowledge, with ten of the seventeen contributors having a sociological background.

" The greatest catalyst for the development of organisational studies....came in 1963 when the Disaster Research Centre .... was established .... at Ohio State University. "

Two further texts by Moore and his colleagues on community response to hurricanes were released in 1963 and 1964. Thomas Drabek published papers on the family in the disaster context in 1968 and 1969, after earlier publishing several joint articles on a variety of topics. Quarantelli published several other articles relating to mass behaviour, panic, and a number of other joint papers with Russell Dynes. Dynes also produced several articles on disaster theory, and legal and religious aspects. In 1968, Ellwyn Stoddard presented his monograph on conceptual models of disaster, and in 1969 he released his discussion of voluntary organisations in the disaster setting. The decade ended with the release of Barton's "Communities in Disaster", a pioneering work on collective stress.

Thus, by the beginning of the 1960s there was a significant body of empirical and theorectical literature on disasters. As a result, the 1970s and 1980s have witnessed a virtual "explosion" of disaster research within sociology. The study of organisations in disaster was a particularly important development. A brief review of this development follows.

Organisational studies in the disaster context

The greatest catalyst for the development of organisational studies within this specific field of inquiry, came in 1963 when the Disaster Research Center (DRC) was established within the Department of Sociology at The Ohio State University. Prior to the formation of the Center, most social science research focussed on individual victims, and their behaviour and reactions to disasters. The DRC founding co-directors, Russell Dynes and Enrico Quarantelli wrote in a 1986 paper with Dennis Wenger that prior to the establishment of DRC, "practically no attention had been given to the activities

of the emergency organisations in the community even though the action of such groups generally determines the effectiveness and efficiency of the reactions just prior to, during, and immediately after impact".

Among the few studies of organisation in the disaster context prior to 1963 were Killian's discussion of role conflict, in 1952; Rosow's doctoral dissertation in 1955; the Form and Loomis paper in the American Sociological Review (1956) which discussed characteristics of rescue personnel and organisation; Ellsworth Bunker's general discussion of the American Red Cross, in a special issue of The Annals (1957); Form and Nosow's "Community and Disaster" study, published in 1958; and the 1962 Baker and Chapman's edited book, "Man and Society in Disaster" which contained two contributions, one by Allen Barton, and the other by James Thompson and Robert Hawkes, that dealt with the formal organisations in the disaster setting. Once again, all these were American studies.

" A disaster from both a sociological and societal perspective, is probably the event which .... causes maximum community disruption and dislocation. "

Following the establishment of DRC, organisational-based studies of disasters quickly became a "growth area". The police and fire services, hospitals, the military, civil defense, the Red Cross and Salvation Army, public utilities, and many other disaster-relevant agencies which respond to large-scale community crises were scrutinized. Along with Dynes and Quarantelli, sociologists like Adams, Anderson, Brouillette, Drabek, Kennedy, Kreps, McLuckie, Parr, Shaskolsky, Stallings, Warheit, Weller, and Wenger were among the earlier sholars indentified with the Centre's study of organisations in the disaster context. In the 1970s and 1980s, other names such as Blanshan, Golec, Gurney, Ross, Taylor, and Tierney have been added.

Probably the single and most significant publication connected with the DRC's focus on organisations in disaster was Dynes' book "Organised Behavior in Disaster", published in 1970. Not only did it codify existing disaster organisational information, but it set out the now-famous "DRC typology". Furthermore, the text played a central role in bringing about the acknowledgement and acceptance of disaster studies as a legitimate area of sociological concern. It is still regarded as a valuable body of knowledge for policy and decision-makers, as well as for other social and behavioural scientists. The book has a special place in the annals of the development of organisation studies in disasters. It provided a whole generation of graduate students and established theorists with a comprehensive coverage of theorectical and empirical insights into organised behaviour in the disaster setting. And secondly, it presented researchers with an impetus for opening up new ground and to further develop organisational analysis.

A disaster, from both a sociological and a societal perspective, is probably the event which, above all other social crisis events (including conventional but excluding all-out nuclear war), causes maximum community disruption and dislocation. Because organisations have a central role in our society, organisational response to disaster is a particularly significant area of study. One of the basic ideas advanced in Dynes' book is a four-fold typology of organisations within the disaster context. He named these four groups of organisations Established, Expanding, Extending, and Emergent. Dynes suggests that a better understanding of organisational mobilisation, the recruitment of personnel, and the operational problems of adapting to disaster is possible when organisations are categorised into these groups.

At the time members of the DRC were developing the DRC typology, some organisation theorists, and in particular a few organisational sociologists, were beginning to move aware from the predominant "closed-system" analytical approach to organisation research. The "closed-system" approach emphasised in particular, internal organizational structure, organisational goals, organisational size, the internal dynamics of power, authority and control, and formal information and communication channels. A new orientation focussing on the organisation's wider environment began to apply a more "open-system" approach to organisational studies. In a similar development, other sociologists were beginning to apply biological concepts to community studies, and were formulating a "human ecology" perspective. This particular direction lead to a specific interest in organisational ecology and the inter-dependence of organisations. Developments of the "open-system" orientation to organisation research include considerations of inter-organisational relations, organisational effectiveness, and organisational learning strategies.

These developments did not transform organisational sociology overnight however, and mainstream organisation studies were still cast within the conventional sociological orientations. Thus, the majority of organisational theory was still static and passive. This was inappropriate for sociologists focussing on the organization in the disaster setting. What was needed was "active" sociological theory, something which emphasized and explained rapid change within the general environment as well as within organizations. New conceptualisations were required to interpret and clarify situations that the disaster sociologist was witnessing. Because there was little in the literature on organisations in disaster, it was realised that new formulations were required, and it was apparent to DRC members that the open-system approach of organisational analysis would be better to provide answers to key questions. The "DRC typology" was the results of this direction.

Continued in September TMD: **"Disaster Sociology in Australia".**

PUBLICATIONS

GREENHOUSE EFFECT

A recent book on the Greenhouse Effect by Ann Henderson - Sellers and Russell Blong ("The Greenhouse Effect - Living in a Warmer Australia," NSW University Press) makes the following predictions which will impact upon the Australian Counter Disaster community:

- ❖ There will be less rainfall in the south, but it will be more intense. Places like Melbourne will be warmer, drier and windier.
- ❖ The sea level will rise up to 140 centimeters.
- ❖ The tropical cyclone zone will extend 200 to 400 kilometers further south, and these cyclones will be 30 to 60% more intense.
- ❖ Rising sea levels and intensified rainfall could see an increase in flash-flooding and coastal erosion.
- ❖ Higher temperatures in the north could see people moving south when life becomes too uncomfortable. The death toll from heatwaves will rise considerably.
- ❖ Although they are difficult to forecast, more frequent droughts may occur.

REPORT ON CLARENCE RIVER FLOODING

The Centre for Disaster Studies at James Cook University, have just released their Disaster Investigation Report No. 8, titled "Flooding on the Clarence River : The Experience of the Emergency Services, April 1988". Written by Dr. Neil Britton (see Feature article at page 40), it chronicles the sequence of climatological events between 28 March and 14 April 1988, when four of Australia's eight states and territories were drenched by a tropical depression. The impact of the floods on communities in Northern New South Wales, provides the backdrop for investigating State and local government organisational responses. A general overview of community disaster planning and preparedness concludes the study.

Details from : The Bookshop,
James Cook University,
Campus Post Office
Townsville, QLD. 4811

DISASTER STUDIES CENTRE PUBLICATIONS

Besides Disaster Investigation Report No. 8 detailed above, the following DSC publications can be obtained from either James Cook University, or the Cumberland College Disaster Management Studies Centre, East Street, Lidcombe, NSW 2141.

- ◆ Disaster Investigation Reports 1-7;
- ◆ "Response to Disaster" edited by John Oliver;
- ◆ "Insurance and Natural Disaster Management" edited by John Oliver; and
- ◆ "Planning for People in Natural Disaster" by Joan Innes Reid

ACDC 1989/90 HANDBOOK

The Australian Counter Disaster College 1989/90 Handbook has now been published. It includes detailed information about all College activities for the 1989/90 academic year, including activity rationale, aim, objectives, key subject areas, duration and attendance criteria. Also included in the Handbook is administrative information on the College itself, nominations and nominating authorities and the allocation of vacancies.

For copies of the Handbook, write to the College or phone (054) 261205.

TRANSPORT SAFETY

"PETRASAFE/CHEMSAFE", a book published by the Australian Institute of Petroleum (AIP) and the Australian Chemical Industry Council in 1982 to provide guidance to emergency authorities on freight incidents, is still available from both organisations for a nominal sum. Complementing the book is an AIP video, "PETRASAFE - Tanker Emergency Response". This has been widely distributed since its launch in 1987. See TMD Vol. 2 No. 3 of September 1987. Copies are still available from:

AIP at 257 Collins Street, Melbourne,
(Telephone (03) 654 1411, Fax No. (03) 654 1950)
They will be sent to emergency service groups anywhere in Australia, post free and at cost price. It has been accepted as a useful training and planning aid for emergency service personnel and AIP are keen to ensure that it is distributed as widely as possible.

SEMINAR ON TRAINING IN CD SKILLS

Decisions reached at last year's Seminar on Training in Counter Disaster Skills at ACDC paved the way for NDO to produce an expansive and truly national series of emergency/disaster skills training manuals and instructional packages.

To achieve this, NDO has sponsored formation of National Consultative Committees of expert practitioners representing police, State and Territory Emergency Services (S/TES), fire and ambulance services throughout Australia. The Committees are meeting at the College for a series of workshops to write three of the new texts entitled Australian Emergency Manuals - Disaster Rescue, Land Search Operations and Communications. NDO will fund development, publication and national distribution of these and other similar, planned manuals and packages.

The National Consultative Committees were first convened at ACDC in mid April 1989. In his opening address, Major General Howard (DGNDO) said that by bringing together experts from various emergency services, NDO could not only improve the review and writing process for skills training materials, but could also pursue its goal of substantially increasing skills training assistance to emergency services throughout the country. He stressed that in order to achieve a comprehensive, high quality series of Australian Emergency Manuals and Training Packages, Committee members would need to work together in a spirit of co-operation and thereby eliminate needless duplication of effort and cost.

Apart from the three specific manuals mentioned, several others,as agreed by senior S/TES training officers, are being developed as part of the same series. Titles include : Storm Damage; Four Wheel Drive Operations; Methods of Instruction; Leadership; and Training Management. A Map Reading manual has already been distributed to all S/TES's and a training package for it will follw soon.

Encouraging indications of the acceptance of this program have been: the ready participation of all services; the initial progress of Committee workshops; and the excellent atmosphere of enthusiasm and co-operation among members.

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NDO OPERATIONS

The Natural Disasters Organisation (NDO) operates the National Emergency Operations (Centre (NEOC): The role of the NEOC, which is located within NDO at Canberra, is to co-ordinate Commonwealth physical resources for the States/Territories and other countries in the region, who request assistance during disasters. Commencing with this edition of TMD, a brief summary of recent NEOC operations will be outlined.

NEOC OPERATIONS SUMMARY - 1 MARCH to 22 MAY 1989

Operations

❖ 1 MAR TO 4 MAY: Air transport of crop spraying aircraft to Noumea and return - for aerial spraying eradication programme, Dengue Fever outbreak, New Caledonia (18,000 cases, reduced to less than 50).

❖ 1-8 APR: Reconnaissance and fodder drop operations in Nyngan flood-affected area.

❖ 2-3 APR: Reconnaissance/resupply operations in flooded Gympie area with Army UNIMOG vehicles.

❖ 2-10 APR: Reconnaissance/resupply/repair tasks in Ayr/Home Hill and surrounding areas in wake of TC AIVU-Army disaster recovery company and two UH-1H utility helicopters.

❖ 26-29 APR: Reconnaissance/resupply operations in flooded Gympie area with Army UNIMOG vehicles.

❖ 12 MAY: Fodder dropping/re-supply operations in flooded Quilpie area with CH-47 Chinook helicopter.

Monitoring

❖ 3MAR:TCMARCIA,IndianOcean.

❖ 13 MAR: STS (Space Transportation Shuttle) launch.

❖ 12 APR: Floods, Lachlan & Murrumbidgee rivers.

❖ 22-23 APR: TC ORSON, Karratha area and inland.

❖ 5-10 MAY: TC MEENA, SW Pacific to Cape York and Gulf of Carpentaria.

❖ 7-12 MAY :TC ERNIE, SW Pacific to Cape York.

❖ ❖

STAFF

Commander Vin Jerram, one of the College's longest serving instructors, died at Woodend on 2 April 1989. Vin joined the staff of the Australian Civil Defence School (as it was then known) in 1958, being appointed as a general instructor and specialist in radiological defence. He retired in March 1977. Like other staff of this era, he witnessed and was actively involved in the transition from a civil defence orientation, to the counter-disaster role of the mid-70's. Vin has left the legacy of a graphic photo of the 1983 "Ash Wednesday" fires, which hangs in the foyer of the instructional Building.

Prior to his College service and after a long and distinguished career in the British Merchant Marine, Vin joined the Royal Australian Navy in 1943. He saw service in a number of Pacific campaigns, being awarded the Burma and Pacific Star medals. In 1949, he took his first command, HMAS Culgoa, to occupied Japan.

He is survived by his wife Betty, daughters Barbara and Edwina, and son Mark.

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✱ Contributions are welcome and should be addressed to:
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