

# A Risk Management Framework for Emergency Management

## Risk Management in Civil Engineering Advanced Course November 2008

John R. Harrauld, Ph.D  
Professor Emeritus  
The George Washington University  
Institute for Crisis, Disaster, and Risk Management  
([www.gwu.edu/~icdrm](http://www.gwu.edu/~icdrm))

Professor  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University  
Center for Technology, Security, and Policy  
([www.ctsp.vt.edu](http://www.ctsp.vt.edu))

Executive Editor  
Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management  
([www.bepress.com/jhsem](http://www.bepress.com/jhsem))



## National Preparedness Vision

**A NATION PREPARED** with coordinated capabilities to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from all hazards in a way that balances risk with resources and need.

## National Preparedness Guidelines

- The National Preparedness Guidelines identify three fundamental questions that must be addressed to achieve a Nation prepared.
- ***How prepared do we need to be?***
- ***How prepared are we?***
- ***How do we prioritize efforts to close the difference?***

## ***HAZARD***

- Based on the Arabic *al zahr* (dice)
- A source of potential loss or danger, a peril

## ***HAZARD***

- A condition with the potential for the community or environment
- The hazard is the potential, the disaster is the actual event

(Drabek)

## **EMERGENCY**

- **AN UNEXPECTED SITUATION OR SUDDEN OCCURRENCE OF A SERIOUS AND URGENT NATURE THAN DEMANDS IMMEDIATE ACTION**

## ***DISASTER***

- From the Italian (Latin) *disastro* (ill starred)
- An occurrence inflicting wide spread destruction and distress
- Any occurrence, on a scales sufficient to warrant extraordinary response from outside the affected community, which causes damage, ecological disruption, loss of human lives, deterioration of health and health services. (WHO)

## **Catastrophe**

- From Greek *katastrophe*—to overturn
- A violent, destructive event
- Destruction of physical and social systems to the extent that local governments cannot function and mutual aid for regional sources is impossible. (Quarantelli)
- “Any natural disaster, act or terrorism, or other man made disaster that results in extraordinary levels of casualties or damage or disruption severely affecting the population (including mass evacuations), infrastructure, environment, economy, national morale or government functions in an area” (Post Katrina Act)

### **Emergencies, Disasters, and Catastrophes**

Emergencies	Disasters	Catastrophes
Impacts Localized	Impacts Widespread, Severe	Extremely Large Physical and Social Impacts
Response Mainly Local	Response Multi-Jurisdictional, Intergovernmental, But Bottom-Up	Response Requires Federal Initiative, Pro-Active Response
Standard Operating Procedures Used	Disaster Plans Put Into Effect—But Challenges Remain	Massive Challenges Exceed Those Envisioned in Standard Plans
Vast Majority of Response Resources Are Unaffected	Extensive Damage to, Disruption of, Key Emergency Services	Emergency Response System Paralyzed at Local and Even State Levels
Public Generally Not Involved in Response	Public Extensively Involved in Response	Public Extensively Involved in Response
No Significant Recovery Challenges	Major Recovery Challenges	Cascading Long-Term Effects, With Massive Recovery Challenges

## Comparing Catastrophies

### Hurricane Katrina

- 155,000 Sq. Km impacted
- 1,330 deaths
- 700,000 displaced people
- 1,000,000 evacuated.
- 300,000 homes uninhabitable
- 250,000 sheltered
- \$96 billion damage
- 118 M cubic yards of debris

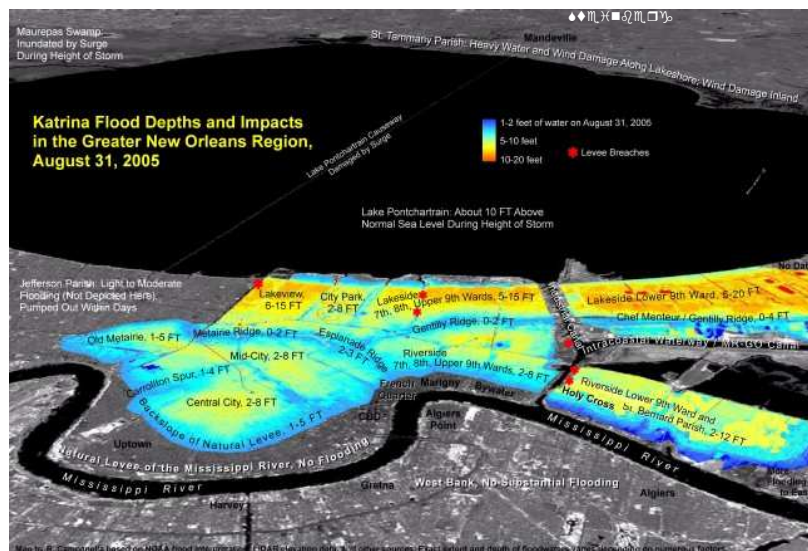
### Sichuan M7.9 Earthquake

- 100,000 Sq Km impacted
- 68,146 deaths, 17,516 missing
- 374,131 injured
- 5-11 1M people displaced
- 216,000 buildings destroyed
- 803 dams damaged

## Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath.



# Landfall



Map and analysis by R. Campanella, CBR (excerpted from *Geographies of New Orleans: Urban Fabrics Before the Storm*, due out 2006)

All rights restricted- do not reproduce without permission of CBR.

## **RISK Definition**

**“A measure of potential harm that encompasses **threat (hazard), vulnerability, and consequence**. Risk is the expected magnitude of loss due to a terrorist attack, natural disaster, or other incident, along with the likelihood of such an event occurring and causing that loss.”**

NIPP 2006

## **Risk Management Challenge Potential Catastrophic Events in US**

- Severe earthquake in populated area
- West Coast, Hawaii, Alaska Tsunami
- Gulf Coast, East Coast Hurricane
- Dam failures in LA, Columbia River
- Levee failures—Mississippi, Sacramento rivers
- Pandemic Outbreak
- Biological Attack
- Chemical attack or accident
- Nuclear Bomb in US city
- Cyber attack

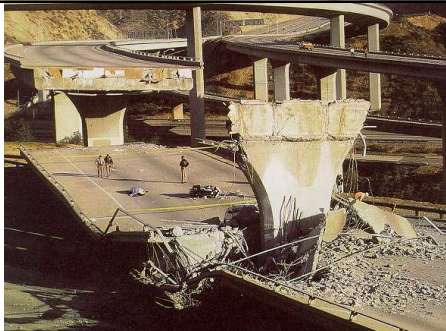




## *Most of US Population & Property Has Major CAT Exposure*



*Is  
Anyplace  
Safe?*



Risk Perception is biased by low probability events that have actually occurred. Risk Analysis must also identify and evaluate the risk of rare events that have not yet happened.

## A RISK-BASED APPROACH

“We need to adopt a risk-based approach in both our operations and our philosophy.

**Risk management is fundamental to managing the threat**, while retaining our quality of life and living in freedom. Risk management must **guide our decision-making** as we examine how we can best organize to prevent, respond and recover from an attack.”

Remarks as prepared for Secretary Michael Chertoff U.S. Department of Homeland Security George Washington University Homeland Security Policy Institute (3/16/05)

## Decisions supported by Risk Management

- **Strategic**—which policies best protect the nation from natural hazards or terrorist attack?
- **Programmatic**—which programs will effectively implement strategies?
- **Funding**—how should funding be allocated between programs, geographical areas?
- **Tactical**—which specific risk management interventions are cost effective?

## U.S Department of Homeland Security Strategic Goals Define an all Hazards, Risk Management Approach

**Awareness:** Identify and understand threats, assess vulnerabilities, determine potential impacts

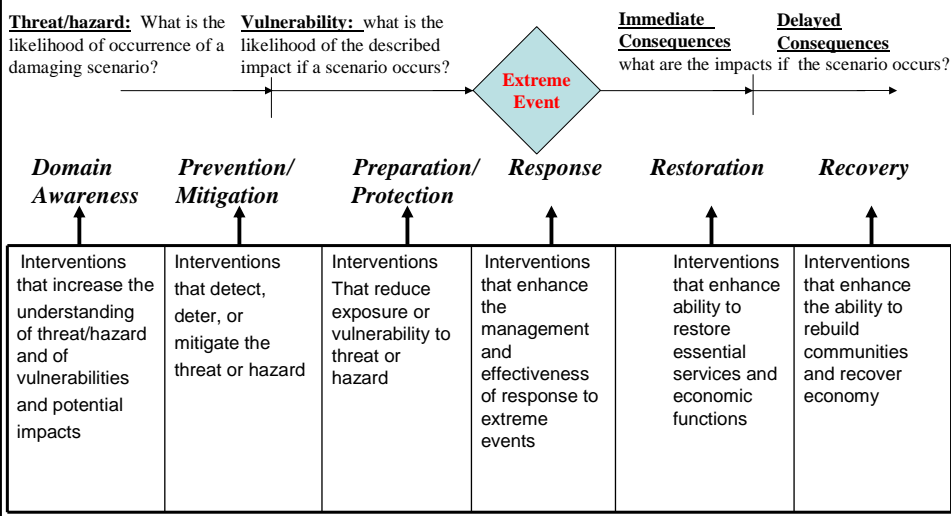
**Prevention:** Detect and deter and mitigate threats

**Protection:** Safeguard our people and freedoms, critical infrastructure and the economy.

**Response:** Lead, manage and coordinate the national response to extreme events

**Recover:** Lead national, state, local and private sector efforts to restore services and rebuild communities

## A Risk Management Strategy for Emergency Management



## **Awareness and Preparedness**

### **Key Tasks**

- Risk communication
- Risk characterization
- Translation of risk information to appropriate protective actions and operational requirements

## **RISK COMMUNICATION** **QUESTIONS**

- **To whom** do we communicate about risk? – Who are the Stakeholders?
- **What** do we communicate about risk? – How will stakeholders use the information?
- **How do** we communicate about risk? – How should the risk be characterized and presented?

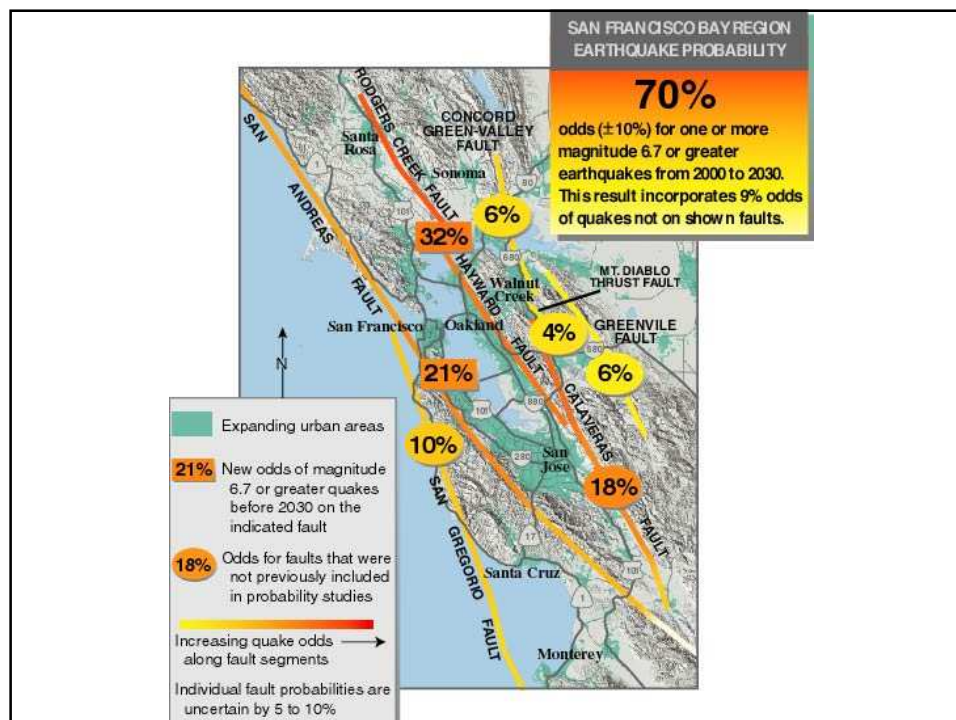
## RISK CHARACTERIZATION

The way the nation handles risk often breaks down at the stage of “risk characterization” when the information in a risk assessment is translated into a form *usable by a risk manager, individual decision maker, or the public.*

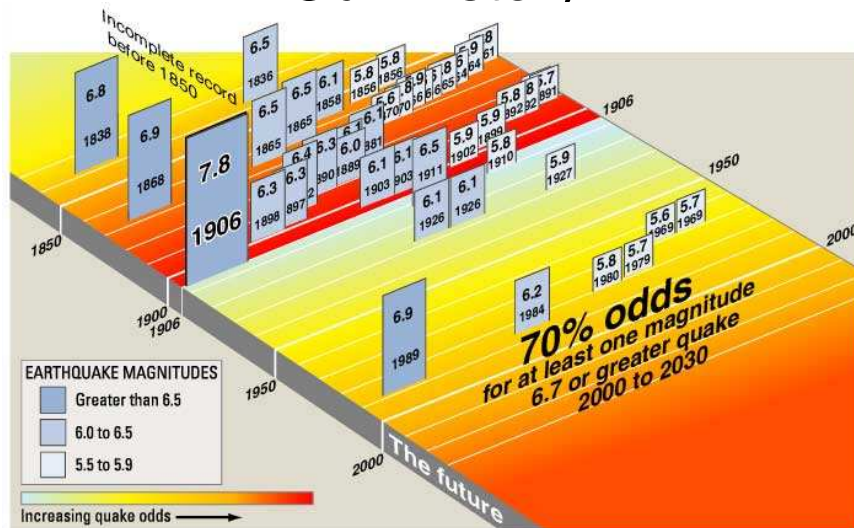
Risk characterization is not only a summary or translation of technical results, it should be a *decision driven activity* directed toward informing choices and solving problems

National Research Council 1996

*Understanding Risk: Informing Decisions in a Democratic Society*

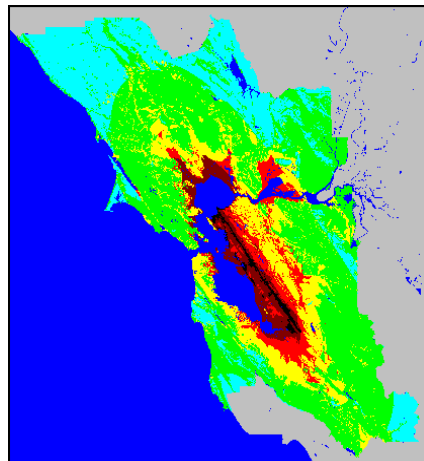


## Our History

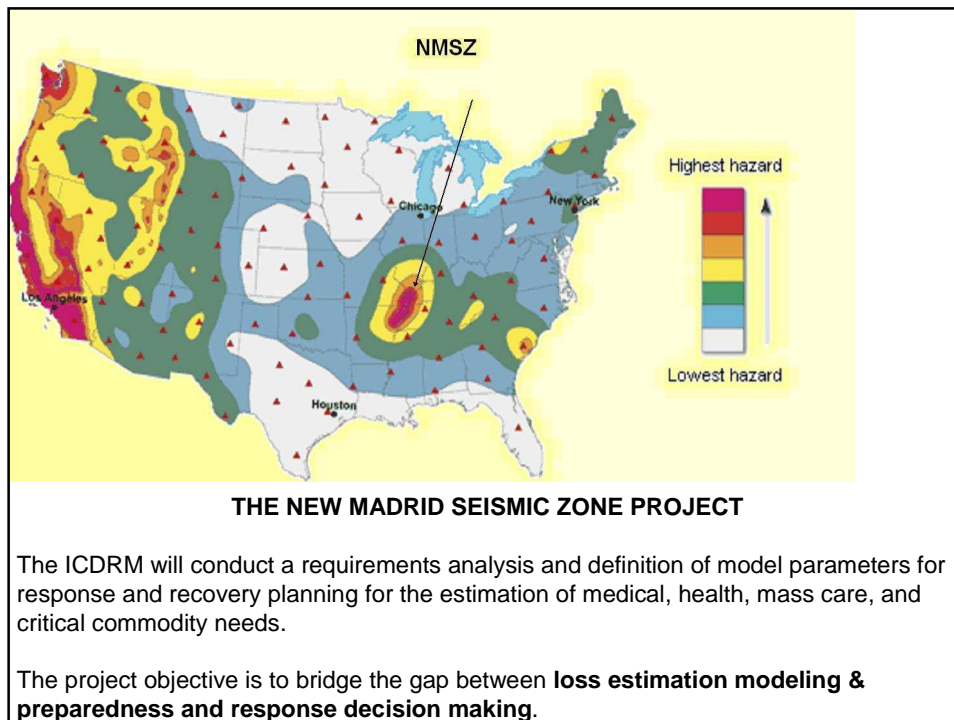


## What Happens - M 7.1 on Entire Hayward Fault

- **155,700** uninhabitable housing units
- **356,600** people displaced
- **110,300** peak shelter population
- **1,639** Road Closures
- **Entire East Bay** isolated

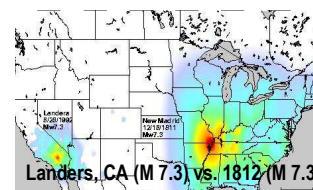
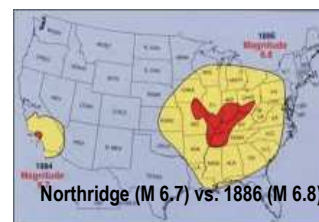




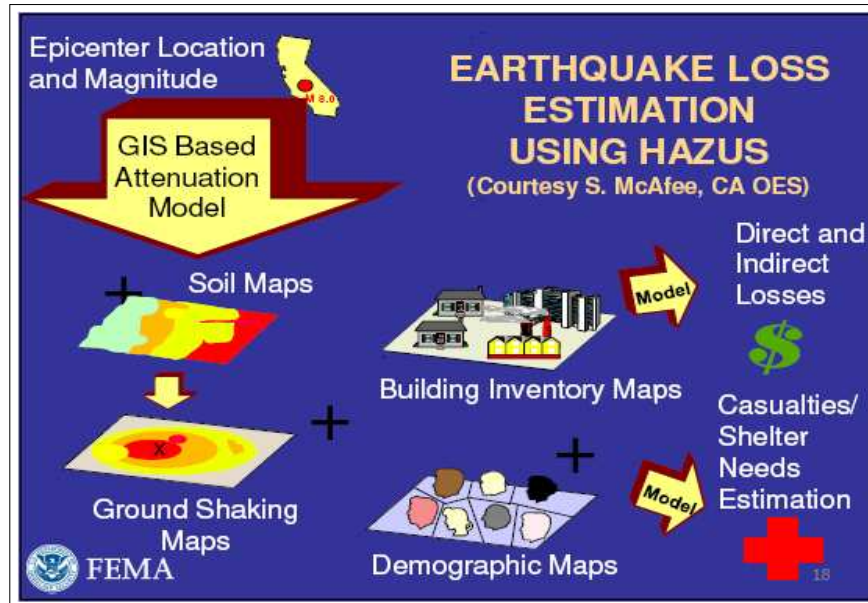


## New Madrid Seismic Zone Catastrophic Planning: The Challenge in New Madrid

- **NMSZ = Significant Fault Systems, High Consequences**
- **Significant national impact**
  - Ripple effect across America
- **Wider-reaching effect than quake in CA**
  - (See Maps)
- **Tremendous impact on civil infrastructure and critical facilities**
- **44M people live in eight-state region**
  - 12M in high risk area
- **Weather & evacuation complications**
- **Impact to the National Infrastructure**
  - Communications
  - Energy
  - Transportation



## Understanding HAZUS

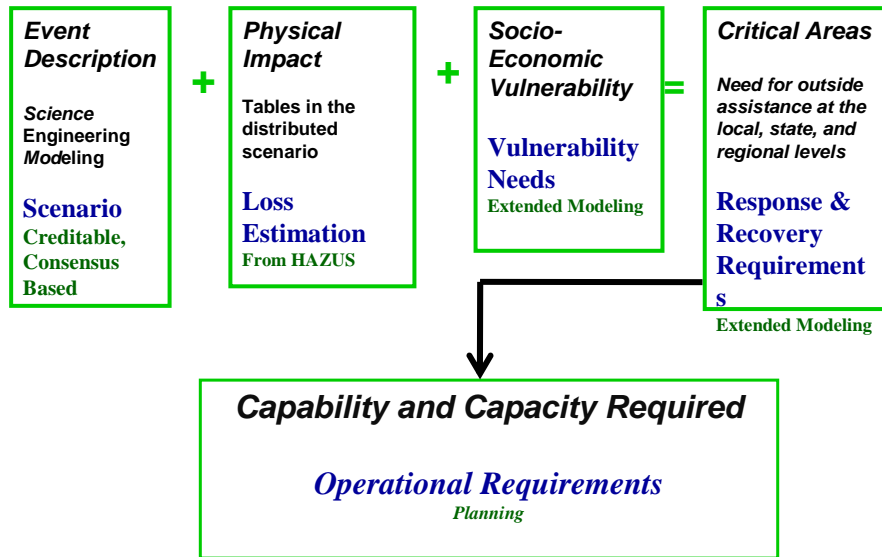


## Operational Requirements Planning Efforts

- Social impacts and needs assessments dictate operational requirements
- Capability and Capacity Required
  - Command and Control
  - Mass Care
  - Rescue and Recovery
  - Health and Medical
  - Mortuary
  - Utilities



## From Scenario to Operational Requirements

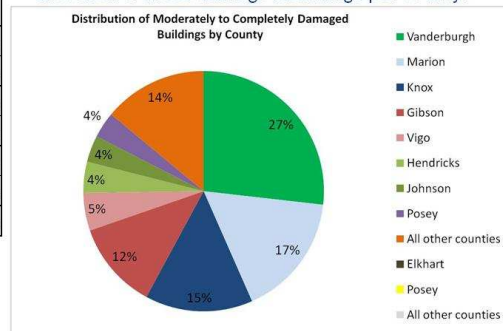


### Building Stock Damage

County	Complete damage	At least moderate damage
<b>Knox</b>	16%	19%
<b>Gibson</b>	15%	17%
<b>Vanderburgh</b>	8%	8%
<b>Posey</b>	3%	6%
<b>Sullivan</b>	0%	3%
<b>Vermillion</b>	0%	3%
<b>Vigo</b>	0%	3%

Damage levels for all other counties are less than 3%

Approximately 16,500 buildings (of the over 1.9 million in the state) are expected to incur at least moderate damage. The chart below shows the allocation of these damaged buildings per county.



### Utility Interruptions

% of Households without Potable Water

County	Day 1	Day 3	Day 7	Day 30
<b>Knox</b>	98%	97%	97%	85%
<b>Gibson</b>	94%	93%	91%	41%
<b>Vanderburgh</b>	20%	6%	0%	0%
<b>State-wide</b>	22%	17%	14%	10%

% of Households without Power

County	Day 1	Day 3	Day 7	Day 30
<b>Knox</b>	73%	47%	23%	68%
<b>Sullivan</b>	46%	26%	88%	14%
<b>State-wide</b>	8%	5%	2%	1%

## Identifying Critical Counties

### Security, Water, Energy, Accessibility, Telecom (SWEAT)

Critical Counties	S			W		E	A			T
	Police	Fire	Hospital	Water	Sewage	Electricity	Roads	Bridges	Schools	Telecom
DeValls	Y	Y	Y	G	G	G	G	G	Y	G
Dubois	Y	G	Y	G	G	G	G	G	Y	G
Gibson	Y	Y	Y	R	G	G	G	G	Y	Y
Greene	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
Knox	Y	Y	Y	R	Y	R	G	G	Y	Y
Pike	G	G	W	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
Posey	Y	Y	W	G	G	G	G	G	Y	G
Spencer	G	G	W	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
Sullivan	Y	Y	Y	G	G	Y	G	G	Y	Y
Vanderburgh	G	G	G	Y	G	G	G	G	G	G
Warrick	G	G	R	G	G	G	G	G	G	G

#### Legend

Values at Day 1

S - Security  
Police  
Fire  
Hospitals

W - Water  
Water  
Sewage

E - Electricity

A - Accessibility  
Roads  
Bridges  
Schools

T - Telephone

G 80 - 100%

Y 40 - 79%

R 0 - 39%

W Unknown

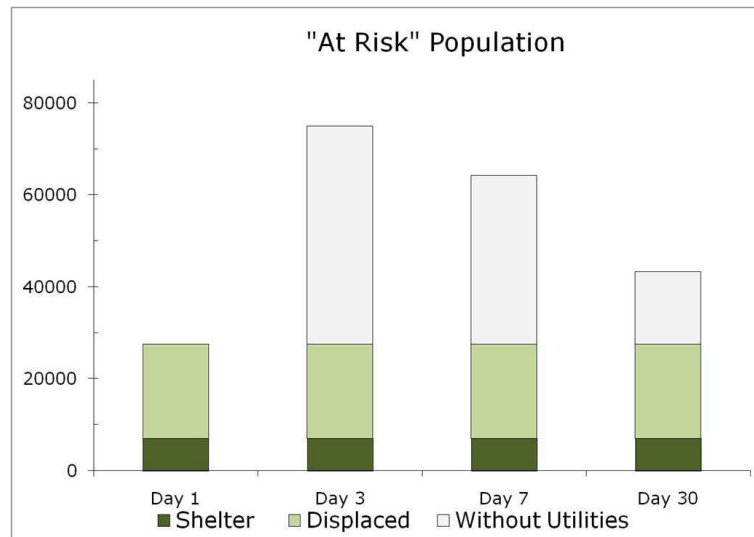
## “At Risk” Populations

HAZUS estimates displaced population based solely on structural damage to residential buildings. Shelter seeking population is a subset of the displaced population based on demographic socio-economic characteristics such as ethnicity and income level.

The “at risk” population is composed of the displaced population and the following estimated populations:

- Households without electricity and/or water for an extended period of time (> 3 days).
- Efforts are ongoing to include estimates of
  - Pre-event homeless
  - Institutions (dormitories, nursing homes, etc.)
  - Tourists

## Estimated “At Risk” Population



## Response and Recovery

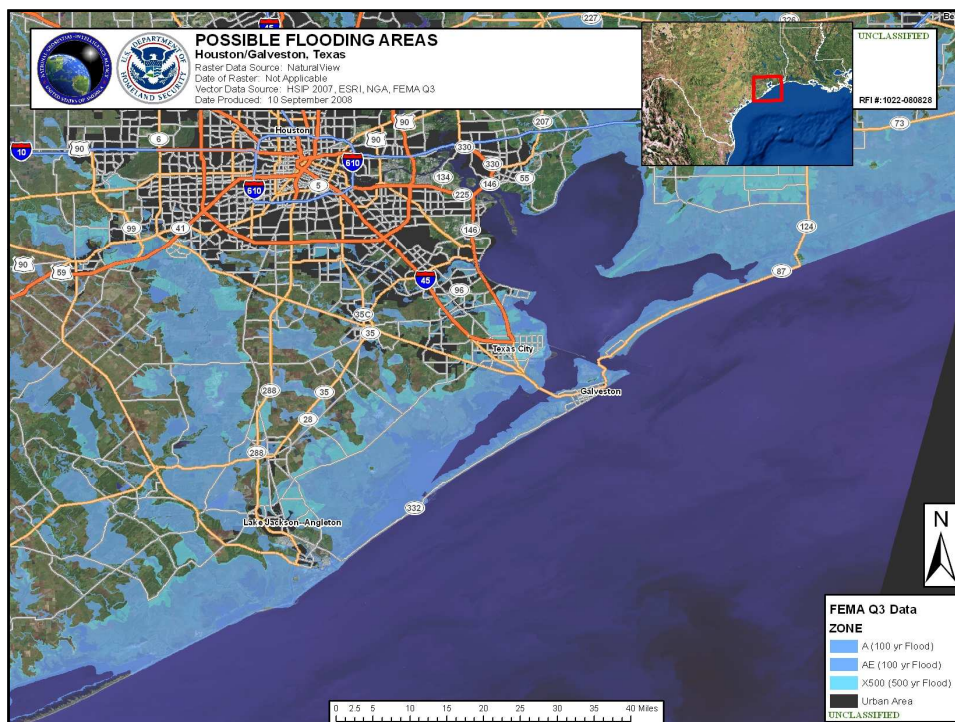
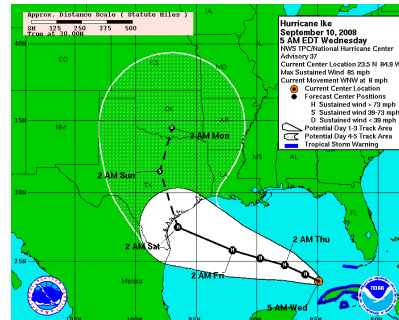
### Key requirements

- **Accurate situational awareness**
- **Ability to establish life saving, life sustaining priorities**
- **Ability to establish restoration and recovery priorities**

# Storm Characteristics

## Landfall Conditions for Advisory 37

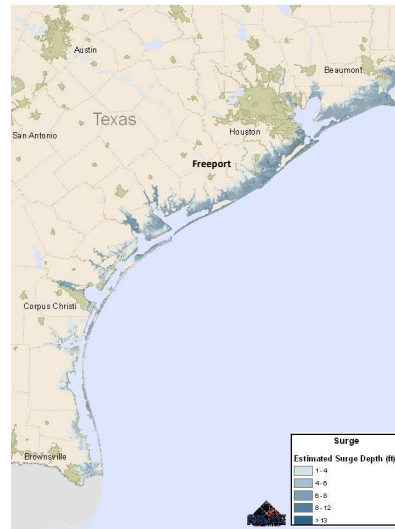
- Category 3 storm
- Landfall Projected at 0500 CDT  
13 September 2008  
approximately 8 Miles SE of  
Seadrift, TX
- Maximum Sustained Winds 120  
mph with gusts to 150 mph
- Tropical storm force winds up to  
175 Nautical Miles (201 miles)  
from center of circulation
- Hurricane force winds up to 35  
Nautical Miles (40 miles) from  
center



# Population Affected by Storm Surge

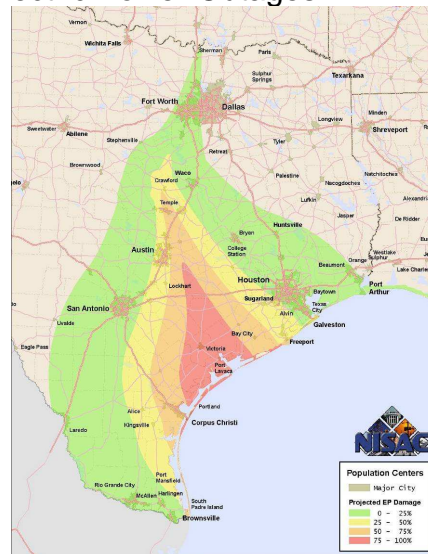
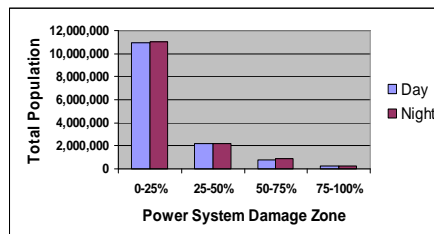
- Most significant storm surge projected in the Freeport area just south of Houston

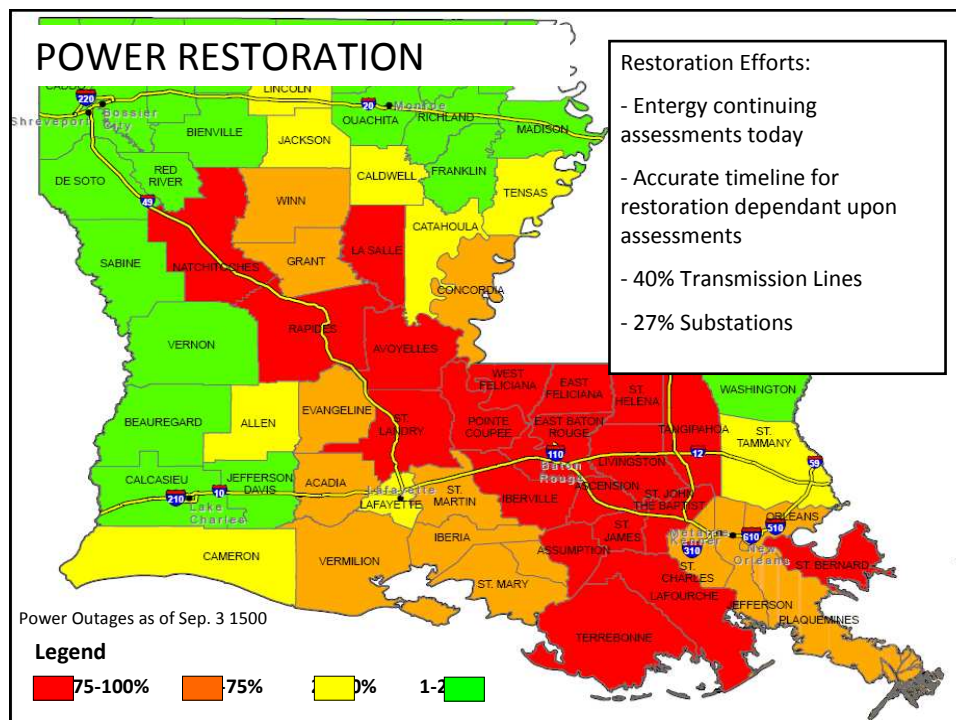
Depth (ft.)	Affected Daytime Population	Affected Nighttime Population	Housing Units in Surge
1-4	146,300	146,300	61,700
5-8	113,000	112,000	53,600
9-12	86,200	73,500	43,000
>12	25,000	22,400	15,100



# Population Affected by Electric Power Outages

- More than 14 million people live within EP damage contours
- Approximately 250,000 people live in highest impact area





## General Population Shelters

National Shelter System (NSS)					
04 SEPT 08 02:00 am EDT					
	State	Total Shelters	Total Population	Evacuation capacity	Used % Capacity
1	Alabama (R4)	52	10,932	22,571	48.43%
2	Arkansas (R6)	27	1,063	5,925	17.94%
3	Florida (R4)	3	70	1,300	5.38%
4	Georgia (R4)	6	671	2,108	31.83%
5	Indiana (R5)	1	0	350	0.00%
6	Kentucky (R4)	1	1,432	3,000	47.73%
7	Tennessee (R4)	37	5,655	13,205	42.82%
8	Oklahoma (R6)	3	1,636	13,055	12.53%
9	Mississippi (R4)	62	6,517	21,536	30.26%
10	Texas (R6)	31	1,639	9,259	17.70%
11	Louisiana (R6)	49	13,356	28,222	47.32%
11	CURRENT DAY	272	42,971	120,531	35.65%

## Issues in using Risk Modeling in Support of Emergency Management

- Models must be appropriate representation of reality
- Data and/or expert judgment must be available to populate models
- Metrics must be developed that allow evaluation of outcomes and determination of response and recovery objectives

### RISK ANALYSIS RESULTS CAN BE MISLEADING

**Bad data** + **Good models** → **Wrong answers**

- Is data complete, are all events recorded?
- Is data accurate, are events correctly described?
- Is data timely, does it describe current reality?
- Is data consistent, are events described in multiple ways?

**Good data** + **Bad models** → **Wrong answers**

- Does the model select the appropriate reality?
- Does the model appropriately represent the selected reality?
- Are the assumptions correct?
- Is the math correct?

**Fuzzy data** + **Fuzzy models** → **Uncertain answers**

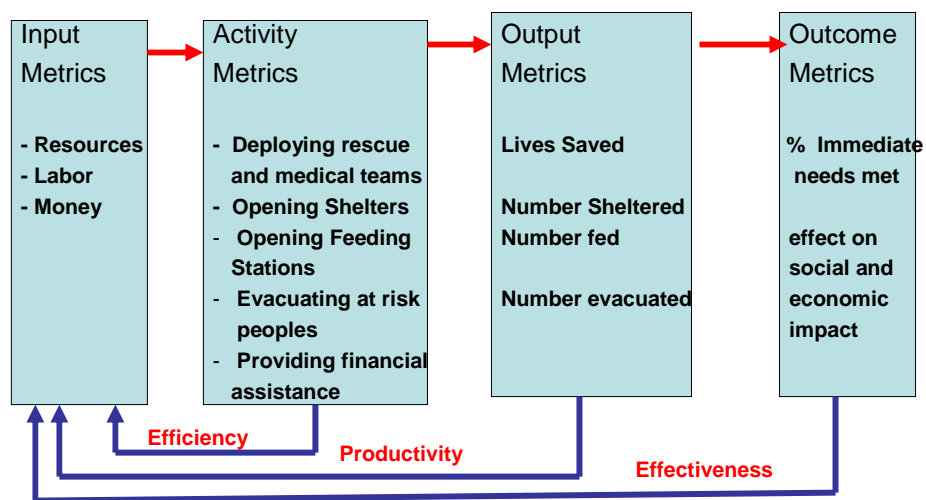
- What is uncertainty in data, in assumptions, in calculations?



# Existing Disaster Metrics

Event	Physical Impact	Socio-Economic Impact
<b>Hurricane</b> -Wind Speed -Category -Storm Surge	Building damage Critical Facility damage Infrastructure damage	Deaths Displaced people Injuries Insured losses Estimated losses
<b>Earthquake</b> -Magnitude -Intensity -Ground Acceleration -Ground Velocity	<div> <p><b>Metrics describing event are more precise than metrics describing physical impact.</b></p> <p><b>Socio-Economic impacts drive response and recovery—metrics are incomplete and inadequate And have not been linked to Physical impacts</b></p> </div>	
<b>Tornado</b> -Saffer-Simpson -Wind Speed		
<b>Flood</b> -Flood Stage -Water Height		

# Disaster Management Metrics





## What is a Successful Disaster Response? (measures of outcomes)

- Claims for Federal disaster assistance payments are process rapidly and applicants are not forced to wait extended periods of time to apply for assistance
- Few if any disaster victims remain stranded in life-threatening situations or without urgent medical attention for more than a few hours
- Few if any disaster victims are left without adequate shelter, food, or water for more than twenty four hours
- Individuals seeking to evacuate are able to do so
- Electricity, water, and communications utilities are restored to the vast majority of people in the affected area within twenty-four to thirty six hours.

Source: James Miskel  
*Disaster Response and  
Homeland Security*

## Four Risk Management Challenges

- 1. Developing appropriate scenarios and risk models for rare, extreme events.**
  - Specifying complete set of event scenarios
  - Estimating scenario frequency distribution of scenarios
  - Estimating long term consequences
  - Identifying potential risk management interventions
  - Avoiding modeling what we have already experienced
- 2. Developing more rigorous methods of qualitative risk assessments.**
  - DHS, National Labs, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Coast Guard, Transportation Security Administration, University Research Centers all working on improving qualitative methods, particularly for terrorism threat

## **Four Risk Management Challenges**

3. Improving methods of characterizing and effectively communicating results of risk analysis to decision makers and general public.
  - DHS, FEMA, DOD working on structuring and presenting situational awareness information, large gap between decision maker's needs and modeling output.
4. Investment in collection, cleansing and structuring of data required for quantitative risk assessment.
  - Inventory data for structures and infrastructure is not available and/or not accurate
  - Historical data collected for safety investigations, system management, not for risk analysis.
  - Minimal historical data available for terrorism and other new threats.

**Thank You**

**For additional information  
please contact me  
at [jharrauld@vt.edu](mailto:jharrauld@vt.edu)**