

PLANNED REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Since 1963 the Disaster Research Center has made a practice of conducting research that is relevant not only to social and behavioral scientists, but also to a larger audience. The latter includes officials and organizations responsible for planning for and responding to mass emergencies, and includes the general public. Thus, DRC publications and reports have been selectively written for, and disseminated to, a wide variety of individuals and groups.

The same diversity of audiences is visualized for the findings and observations of our ECG study. Some publications will be primarily for professional social scientists. Others will be aimed at organizational personnel and policy makers who must regularly deal with the public at large. Last but not least, there will be reports for citizens in general, especially members of recently emergent citizen groups. In fact, all ECG's studied in the field work have been promised copies of this report and other information about the results of the study.

The following reports and publications are planned to appear in the later stages and immediately after the 30 months of the study.

1. A specially written booklet for emergent citizen groups, presenting the general results of our study
2. A non-technical primer for formal organizations, especially government agencies, indicating our general research results and the implications for organizational activities in disaster preparedness and recovery
3. Several specially written brief papers indicating the general thrust of the study for widely circulated general non-technical disaster-oriented publications (e.g., *The Hazard Monthly*), or publications which might reach policy makers and emergency personnel
4. Similar brief papers for publications which might reach public interest or consumer-oriented groups
5. An article, midway in our research and presenting preliminary results for a professional disaster journal such as *Disasters* or an applied social science journal such as the *Journal of Voluntary Action Research*
6. An overall monograph summarizing the work accomplished and written primarily for the disaster research community and to be published at the conclusion of the study as one of the DRC Book and Monograph series
7. Articles for professional social science journals, which because of publication lags are unlikely to appear until well after the formal conclusion of the study

In addition to these specific written documents, presentations will be given by DRC staff members at meetings and to organized groups. These will include public interest and academic research groups.

RECENT DRC WRITINGS

Major recent writings by Center personnel include an *Inventory of Disaster Field Studies in the Social and Behavior Sciences 1919-1979*; two monographs, *Evacuation Behavior and Problems: Findings and Implications from the Research Literature*; and *Sociobehavioral Responses to Chemical Hazards: Preparation for and Responses to Acute Chemical Emergencies at the Local Community Level*, all obtainable from DRC, and *Delivery of Emergency Medical Services in Disasters: Assumptions and Realities*, obtainable only from Irvington Press.

OTHER DRC PUBLICATIONS

DRC publishes its own book and monograph series, a report series, and a historical and comparative disasters series. Information on all publications including articles, preliminary papers, final reports, and dissertations written by DRC staff members is provided in a publications' list of several hundred items which can be obtained at no cost from

DRC Publications
128 Derby Hall
The Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio 43210

FUTURE WORK

Additional field work is planned after the first year, some of which will obtain data from other ECG's not studied in the first year. The plan is to eventually systematically study 50 different ECG's, but the final total is subject to the contingencies of travel budget and other considerations. Also, the research design calls for returning to some of the ECG's about a year after they were originally studied to note their development, dissolution, or stability since the previous visit. We might longitudinally study ten or twelve ECG's. In addition, we plan to restudy those ECG's in localities actually impacted in 1983 by a disaster agent for which the ECG was organized. The object would be to see what effects the disaster has on the emergent citizen group and what effects the group has on the disaster.

The bulk of the work planned for the second year of the project, however, involves data analysis rather than more data gathering. The initial field reports on each ECG will be expanded into a systematic case study. Each case study will be approximately 25 pages long. The initial part of the case study will provide general community background information (e.g., the socio-economic, the socio-political, and the social-geographic features of the community in which the ECG is located, as well as the disaster history of that community). The bulk of the case study, however, is organized around the ECG's career (a descriptive account); its characteristics; the consequences of its activities; and the conditions which seem responsible for the emergence, growth, and survival of the group. Case studies will be internal DRC documents; if some are eventually published they will be rewritten to insure the promised confidentiality and anonymity. The case studies will primarily be used to develop a theoretical model of emergent citizen groups. The development of this theoretical model and the practical implications will primarily be undertaken in the last half year of the study, early in 1984.

PROJECT MEMBERS

The ECC project is under the supervision of E. L. Quarantelli, Professor of Sociology and Director of DRC, who first began disaster research in 1950. The field work coordinator is Kenneth Green, a Ph.D. candidate in rural sociology. Other project members who perform much of the field work and assist in project design and data analysis are Nina Cochran, Eric Ireland, and David Neal, all graduate students in sociology, and Susan McCabe, a graduate student in anthropology. Brenda Phillips, a graduate student in sociology, and Mark Wenden, a graduate student in anthropology assisted with some of the past field work. Jennifer Welch, DRC's Administrative Director, manages the administrative, publication, and documentation aspects of the project. Connie Hand and Eva Bridget assist with support services.

THE DISASTER RESEARCH CENTER

The Disaster Research Center, the first of its kind in the world and the only one in the United States, was established at The Ohio State University in 1963. The Center engages in a variety of sociological research studies on group and organizational preparations for, responses to, and recoveries from community wide emergencies, particularly natural and technological disasters. There have been 451 different field studies since the Center's inception. Teams have gone to earthquakes in Japan, Chile, Yugoslavia, Italy, Iran, El Salvador, Greece, California, and Alaska; hurricanes in the Southern and Eastern United States as well as Japan; floods in Italy, Canada, and more than a dozen states; and scores of tornadoes and hazardous chemical incidents around the country. For purposes of comparison, Center personnel have examined organizational responses to civil disturbances in about a dozen American cities.

The major research focus of the Center is on emergency organizations and their planning and response to large-scale community crises. Recent emphasis has been on sheltering and housing problems in large scale disasters, sociobehavioral responses to acute chemical hazards, the process of evacuation and the development of collaborative work with Japanese disaster researchers. Current work includes, besides the research on emergent citizen groups, studies of mass media operations in disasters, and problems of organizational and community coordination at times of emergencies.

Besides storing its own data collected through in-depth interviewing, participant observations, and document gathering, the Center serves as a repository for material collected during research by other agencies and researchers. The Center's specialized library, which contains the world's most complete collection of books, periodicals, and reports on socio-behavioral aspects of disasters is open to all interested scholars and public and private agencies involved in disasters.

Center activities and research have been supported by diverse sources including the U.S. Health Resources Administration, the Office of Civil Defense, the Water Resources Research Program of the Department of Interior, the National Science Foundation, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the State of Ohio Department of Mental Health.