

Inside This Issue

- 1 Executive Director's Message
- 2 Gender-responsive emergency planning
- 3 CCAP Climate Resilience Blog
- 4 Student-led Disaster Recovery in New Zealand
- 5 Upcoming Conferences
- 6 NHMA Committee Reports
- 7 Awards & Scholarships
- 7 Job Announcements
- 8 Newsletter Advertising

Visit NHMA's Hurricane Sandy Information Page <http://nhma.info/sandy> to learn about steps to a safe and sustainable recovery

Message from the Executive Director

Dear NHMA Members,

I am very pleased to be able to write you this message as part of the inaugural issue of the NHMA newsletter. As you know, NHMA was founded in mid 2008 by a group of folks who felt very strongly that we needed an avenue to foster collaboration, promote local grassroots mitigation efforts, and work towards a more resilient nation. Over the past four years we have expanded our membership tremendously, created a web and social media presence, formed many partnerships, given the grassroots a voice in multiple national policy discussions, hosted two Annual Practitioners Workshops, and more recently founded the Resilient Neighbors Network. However, as the damages of Hurricane Sandy illustrate, we still have a long way to go as a nation.

Mayor Bloomberg had the foresight to challenge all of us to "build back smarter," and we have seen significant mention of hazard mitigation in the national media. We are actively working to recommend that affected residents and communities throughout the Northeast take steps now, while they have the opportunity to build back safer, smarter, and in a manner designed to reduce misery for future generations. We can and should rebuild so the danger and damage from the next disaster will be lessened.

I consider myself incredibly fortunate to be part of this wonderful organization and I look forward to seeing what the next four years bring.

Sincerely,



Alessandra Jerolleman

Building Back Safer & Smarter after Hurricane Sandy

NHMA is encouraging communities to rebuild in safer and smarter ways in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. NHMA has issued a paper on its website, entitled "Build Back Safer & Smarter," with nine time-tested steps local leaders, businesses, and homeowners can follow as they recover from the storm.

NHMA's Hurricane Sandy Information Page includes additional resources for a safe & sustainable recovery. Visit <http://nhma.info/Sandy/> for information on protecting property and preparing for hurricanes, interactive maps, social media applications, and resources from FEMA, the American Planning Association, and the Natural Disaster Preparedness Training Center.

Why Gender? Why Women?

By Elaine Enarson, Ph.D.

NHMA Board of Directors

President – Edward Thomas
Vice President – Jo Ann Howard
2nd Vice President – Ann Patton
Secretary – Tim Lovell
Treasurer – Richard Krajieski, Rev.

Executive Director – Alessandra Jerolleman, MPA, CFM

Board Members:

George Haddow
 Darrin Punchard, AICP, CFM
 Lincoln Walther, FAICP
 Barry Hokanson, AICP
 Robert Anderson, P.G., C.E.G.
 David Mallory, P.E., CFM
 Jim Murphy, P.E.
 Tom Bennett
 Kelly Klima, Ph.D.
 Donald Watson, FAIA, NCARB

“‘Know your community’--the whole community—is the guiding light of modern emergency management. From a gender perspective, this means asking the right questions, not head counting or gender quotas.”

“Know your community”—the whole community—is the guiding light of modern emergency management. From a gender perspective, this means asking the right questions, not head counting or gender quotas. It means bringing curiosity and knowledge about the effects of gendered life experience to bear on every routine activity of contemporary emergency management, from mitigation, and risk mapping to awareness campaigns and community partnerships to reduce risk.

No “one size fits all” is possible or appropriate in disaster work, and this is just as true of gender-responsive emergency planning. The three core areas below are good starting points.

Representation: *Do your planning data represent the everyday realities of women and of men?*

- Is planning undertaken with full knowledge of the patterns and trends that shape women's and men's lives, respectively? Do you have sex-specific data, for instance, on rates of employment or single parenting, or know where low-income, transient, or homeless women/men live in your area? These patterns can vary significantly by sex. Is men's occupation-based exposure to extreme heat tracked as part of risk assessment and risk communication strategies? What provisions are in place to protect the safety and well-being of sexual minorities?
- How accurate is the planning data you use to help anticipate local demand on hospitals or childcare centers? How many women and how many men reside in halfway homes or shelters with little or no family support? What percentages of women in high-risk areas are also of childbearing age? Where are the major employers of men/women relative to transportation lines or physical hazards, and how does this shape your risk communication strategies?
- What are the dominant languages spoken by women and by men, respectively, or their literacy rates? Do you know what media are most likely to reach women and men in different age, ethnic or income groups? What social service or government agencies maintain data that would help your office anticipate disparate impacts on women and/or men?

Meaningful engagement: *Are high-risk women and men equal and full partners in your work to reduce risk and prepare for disasters?*

- Are representatives of women in high-risk living conditions and locales actively engaged in community work to reduce risk, for example through neighborhood preparedness teams, stakeholder meetings, pre- and post-event consultations, exercises and local trainings?
- What organizations or networks in your jurisdiction are knowledgeable about high-risk women and girls? How about men and boys at increased risk due to gender norms or demographic patterns?
- Are single-sex institutions equal and full partners in your outreach campaigns to build capacity? How is your office reaching out to women's faith-based groups, and to men's? To girls' sporting or arts groups and to boys'?

Continued on next page.

Why Gender? Why Women (Continued)

Capacity building: *How do you reach out to social groups such as women, men, boys and girls to increase resilience?*

- What grassroots networks, centers, or organizations serve the women in your area who are least able to help themselves? How can your office help them become better prepared for emergencies and disasters?
- Where and how do women living with disabilities, or women migrant workers come together for mutual support? How does this differ for men? How prepared is your local mental health team to respond to the distinct emotional needs of male veterans caught up in disasters, or women living with domestic abuse? Does your agency have staff and volunteers knowledgeable about the gender related challenges facing female and male farmers displaced by drought, or low income women of color rearing children alone?
- In peer learning activities to promote readiness, are both female and male volunteers fully and equally engaged and supported? Which women and which men—and why? Who are the strongest female and male opinion leaders and how can you work with them to reach the local women and local men most at risk? What resources could women's/men's social or educational groups bring to community resilience work?

Numerous training guides and planning resources are now available to help answer these core questions. The NHMA webpage is a good place to start (thank you, NHMA!). Readers may also enjoy two new books about gender and disaster in the US, including *Women Confronting Natural Disaster: From Vulnerability to Resilience* (Enarson, 2012) and *The Women of Katrina: How Gender, Race, and Class Matter in an American Disaster* (David & Enarson, eds. 2012). For more, see the website of the US Gender and Disaster Resilience website (www.usgra.org), or the global Gender and Disaster Sourcebook (www.gdonline.org/sourcebook/).

CCAP Climate Resilience Blog

The Center for Clean Air Policy's **What Does Climate Resilience Look Like?** blog series highlights adaptation images from around the world addressing a variety of climate impacts and resilience solutions. It features examples of innovative adaptation techniques and urban green infrastructure.

The blog is moderated by Dr. Kelly Klima and Steve Winkelman. If you have a climate resilience image to share, please submit it through the CCAP's Twitter or Facebook accounts, or email it to Dr. Klima at kklima@ccap.org. Please include the *Who What Where* (Who took the photo? What is the adaptation technique? Where is it located?). CCAP is especially interested in examples that advance multiple goals such as GHG emission reductions and sustainable economic development.

Visit CCAP's blog at:

<http://www.ccap.org/blog/category/weathering-climate-risks/>



NHMA's Resilient Neighbors Network links together communities working to become disaster resilient so they can support, inform, and inspire each other through a peer-to-peer sharing network.

One Approach to Disaster Recovery

By Jamey Wetmore, Ph.D.

Jamey Wetmore is an Associate Professor at Arizona State University. He was faculty advisor to the School of Human Evolution & Social Change's New Zealand study abroad program in May and June 2012. He sent home daily reports. This is one of them.

We are in Christchurch. Christchurch, or CHCH as it's sometimes referred to, had two major earthquakes recently. One in September 2010 and one in February 2011. Our guides through this town have been students in their 20s who created a social movement to mobilize young people to help with the recovery. Thankfully, the September earthquake (7.1 deep underground) didn't kill anyone, but it shook everyone up, did a fair amount of damage, and caused a lot of liquefaction, i.e. dust, dirt, and sand mixed with water was pushed to the surface and clogged streets and backyards. Classes were cancelled at the local University of Canterbury for 2 weeks. So what did the college kids do? As one of our speakers – Jason Pemberton – told us today, within hours he was invited to 6 different earthquake parties.

It's funny, the college students in this country evidently have a terrible reputation. Whenever anyone mentions college kids they always tell the same story... "Oh, yeah, they get really drunk and then they light couches on fire." Now I will admit that this exact thing happened once just outside my window when I was in college, but so many people talk about it here that it sounds like you can almost set your watch to it. "Oh yeah... look at that blaze. It must be 1 am on a Friday morning!" Anyway, the reason why this aside is important is because a few students in Christchurch ended up changing at least some of the stereotype.

After a day of watching the same videos about the earthquake on their TVs, one of them – Sam Johnson, a law student at the University of Canterbury – decided to do something. He went to volunteer at a number of organizations. Each time they asked him what skills he had... he didn't know what to say, so they told him they couldn't use him. Finally he decided he'd just go find work himself. He posted on Facebook that he was going to help out and asked anyone to join him that wanted to. On the first day 150 people joined him.

They weren't sure what to do. They couldn't work with any of the local aid organizations. So they agreed to just knock on doors and see if anyone could use a hand. They ended up helping out a huge number of people. Much of it was just cleaning up broken plates and tidying up. But the people they helped, especially the elderly people, were incredibly appreciative.

The next day Sam put out the call to Facebook again. This time he got 300 people. And again they knocked on doors and offered help.

The third day he put out the call and this time got 500 people. At this point, the local authorities took notice. Evidently they couldn't imagine 500 college students gathering together being a good thing. Considering their reputation they probably had a point. The City Council called in the military to make sure they did something useful. After 2½ hours of putting them in a holding pattern Sam finally had enough. He took control and told them that they were getting along just fine without the military's help and that they were better off using their talents helping the elderly than standing around. But who is going to be liable if anything goes wrong? "I will take full responsibility," said Sam. And they went back to work.

Sam preached a three step process:

1. Knock on the door.
2. Say "Hi, do you need any help?"
3. Don't do anything stupid.

The City Council tried to stop Sam and his group - which soon became known as the Student Volunteer Army – several more times. Within a month or two, however, the Prime Minister flew in to shake their hands and thank them personally. They quickly became a source of national pride – a sign of people helping their own, or in most cases for the students, adopted, community.

Continued on next page

One Approach to Disaster Recovery (Continued)

In February 2011 the big one hit. Actually it was smaller than the first... this time only 6.2 on the Richter scale. But it had an epicenter just miles from downtown Christchurch and it was near the surface. The tremors were violent, destructive, and deadly. 185 people were killed. As our guides said, in a country of 4 million this is a terrible toll. Everybody knows somebody who knew someone who died. Buildings came down, rivers were disrupted, and steeples fell. Recent estimates put it at the most costly natural disaster ever in New Zealand.

All of Christchurch was hit, but the West side, where the university is, was much less affected than the East side. The Student Volunteer Army was ready. Within 3 days the SVA had 2,000 people a day on the ground working. They kept those numbers up for 5 weeks straight. In all, about 9,000 people volunteered.

The organization was interesting for several reasons.

One, they used social media and quickly mobilized a lot of people.

Two, they had no idea what they were doing, so they just started doing it. The leaders involved didn't seek out their roles. They slowly gained momentum and made decisions on the fly. Many times they were silly decisions – like a law student saying he'd take all liability – but they got good responses much of the time.

And three, they didn't have to abide by any rules. When people came to donate things, the established organizations like the Red Cross had to turn down much of it. When farmers from 2 hours drive away pulled up with 1,000 gallon tanks of drinking water – something that was in very short supply – the Red Cross couldn't take it for liability reasons. But the SVA could and did and quickly distributed it to where it was needed.

The local people were again very thankful. Many weren't able to do the manual labor because of age or duties like taking care of kids. But they could cook and bake while they did other things. It sounds like the SVA never lacked for food. As Jason our speaker today said, he didn't eat at home for over a month because he was always being fed while he worked.

To hear their own version of the story and follow the latest activities of the Student Volunteer Army check out: <http://www.sva.org.nz/>

International Hazard Mitigation Practitioners Symposium

The theme of the **2013 International Hazard Mitigation Practitioners Symposium** – which will be held July 16-17, 2013 – is "*From Grassroots to Global: Reducing Disaster Losses through Mitigation and Adaptation.*" This year's theme is designed to provide insight into best practices for mitigation.

The program sessions will focus on fresh insights, broad visions, and inclusive management techniques that are fundamentally changing communities at home and abroad in terms of hazard mitigation. More information will soon be available on the NHMA website at: <http://nhma.info/>

Upcoming Conferences

The **13th National Conference on Science, Policy, and the Environment** will be held January 15-17, 2013 in Washington, DC. The theme will focus on "Disasters and Preparedness: Science, Preparedness, and Resilience," and will address such topics as cascading disasters, the intersection of the built and natural environments, disasters as mechanisms of ecosystem change, rethinking recovery and expanding the vision of mitigation, human behavior and its consequences and "No Regrets" resilience.

Note: Receive a \$100 NHMA Member discount! Registrants will need to enter the code INDIVIDUAL on the first page, select "Individual 3 Day Registration," select sessions, and enter the discount code NHMA on the last page.

NHMA Committee Reports

Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee

The Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee works to enhance and promote effective multi-hazard mitigation planning at all levels of government in partnership with public and private stakeholders. Its focus goes beyond the development and implementation of hazard mitigation plans and includes the integration of risk communication and risk reduction measures into other plans, policies, tools or processes that lead to safer and more resilient communities.

In the past year the Committee focused on a number of activities related to the following objectives:

- Increase dialogue between FEMA and local mitigation practitioners. Committee tasks included facilitating group discussions and providing input into FEMA's plan review process improvement project, with representatives participating as an invited member of FEMA's External Stakeholder Work Group for mitigation planning. Committee members also provided draft reviews and actively participated in FEMA's Stakeholder Engagement Session for the National Mitigation Framework.
- Develop a formal position statement on the proposed elimination of FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program for NHMA endorsement (*adopted by the NHMA Board of Directors on April 13, 2012*).
- Gain consensus on how to improve local hazard mitigation planning and publish a white paper for NHMA endorsement (*to be presented to the NHMA Board of Directors in November 2012*).

In the coming year the Committee is aiming to identify and document relevant case studies, best practices and other resources for mitigation planners that can be shared or linked to through NHMA's website. Other priorities include better communicating the value of integrating hazard mitigation with other planning processes and routine activities of local communities, linking hazard mitigation planning with ongoing climate adaptation efforts, and further exploring the drivers or motivational tactics for mitigation implementation among various target audiences.

The Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee meets via conference call on the fourth Friday of every month at 1:00 PM EDT. If you are interested in learning more or joining the committee, please contact Darrin Punchard at darrin.punchard@aecom.com.

Hazard Mitigation and Adaptation Committee

The Hazard Mitigation and Adaptation Committee was formed in Fall 2012. This mission of this committee is to foster connections between hazard mitigation and adaptation communities of practice to enhance local community resilience in response to and in anticipation of a changing climate and extreme weather.

The committee has four main goals.

1. We hope to better understand the problem by highlighting gaps and overlap between the hazard mitigation and adaptation communities, as well as improve the understanding of information, policy, and technical assistance communities need to integrate climate adaptation and hazard mitigation efforts.
2. We plan to find tangible ways to build new and strengthen existing connections between hazard mitigation and adaptation professionals.
3. We will encourage professionals to identify scientific, technical, policy, and operational solutions that incorporate hazard mitigation and adaptation into local planning efforts.
4. We will educate and outreach to help local, state, and national decision makers integrate both hazard mitigation and climate adaptation into short- and long-term planning efforts.

The Hazard Mitigation and Adaptation Committee is in the early stages of several projects. We are currently submitting session proposals to existing conferences. Additionally, we are planning a webinar on hazard mitigation and adaptation tentatively scheduled for December 2012. If you have suggestions for this committee, please contact the committee chair, Kelly Klima, at kelly.klima@gmail.com.

Awards & Scholarships



**Maria Vorel,
NHMA's President's
Special Award
Recipient**

Maria Vorel received NHMA's President's Special Award, honoring her exemplary leadership in hazard mitigation.

Maria Vorel retired from the Federal Emergency Management Agency September 28, after a lifetime of advancing the cause of hazard mitigation. For many mitigation practitioners, Vorel is best remembered as national director of FEMA's innovative Project Impact program, which fostered community hazard mitigation from 1998 to 2001. Her other recent jobs including directing the Regional and Disaster Support Branch of FEMA's Mitigation Division and serving as a senior policy advisor for the Risk Reduction Branch.

The President's Special Award, signed by President Ed Thomas, cites Vorel's "tireless advocacy of mitigation, empowerment of local communities, leadership of Project Impact, and development of mitigation professionals." The award was presented on September 28 at Vorel's retirement party in Washington, DC, by NHMA member Jasmin Ruback.

Job Announcements

For job announcement details, please visit www.nhma.info

- **Senior Environmental Planner**, Tetra Tech (Portland, OR)
- **Hazard Mitigation Specialist**, O'Brien's Response Management, Inc. (New York, NY)
- **Assistant Professor – GIS**, California State University (Long Beach, CA)
- **Hazard Mitigation Planner**, JEO (Omaha or Lincoln, Nebraska)
- **Tenure-track Assistant/Associate Professor**, The Department of Sociology at Sam Houston State University (Huntsville, Texas)
- **Emergency Management Accreditation (EMAP)**, Hagerty Consulting (Savannah, GA)
- **Senior Hazard Mitigation Specialist**, City of New Orleans (New Orleans, LA)
- **Hazard Mitigation, Emergency Mgmt, Disaster Specialists**, Dewberry (Tulsa, OK)

Statement of Purpose

The Hazard Mitigator is the quarterly newsletter of the Natural Hazard Mitigation Association. It provides NHMA members with original articles, committee updates, and upcoming event announcements. We encourage members to share the newsletter with colleagues and professionals working in hazard mitigation. We hope to provide existing members with useful resources and to attract new members who wish to be connected to the latest information about hazard mitigation.

Miriam Belblidia and Ponmile Olonilua are the editors of *The Hazard Mitigator*, with support from Alessandra Jerolleman and French Wetmore.

To advertise with *The Hazard Mitigator*, please see page 8.

For submissions, please contact Ponmile Olonilua at olonilua_oo@tsu.edu, with "NHMA Newsletter" in the subject line.



Newsletter Advertising Opportunity

The Natural Hazard Mitigation Association's quarterly newsletter offers advertisers a targeted audience of professionals working in government, private, and nonprofit sectors to reduce losses from disasters. If you are interested in advertising with NHMA, please submit this form and advertising artwork to Miriam Belblidia at mbelblidia@gmail.com.

Space Reservation:

Contact Person _____

Company _____

Address _____

City, State or Province _____

Zip/Postal Code _____ Country _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Advertisement Size and Payment:

- Half Page Size \$200 per issue
- Business Card Size \$100 per issue

Ad Size _____

Total \$ _____

Please provide the advertisement artwork in a jpeg file. Payment must be submitted through NHMA's PayPal account – see <http://nhma.info/>.

Notice:

Advertisers are responsible for all content of advertisements printed. Advertising with NHMA does not constitute an endorsement by NHMA. NHMA reserves the right to refuse such advertising deemed inappropriate for the NHMA Newsletter.

I have read and agree to these terms and conditions set forth on this contract. I am signing this contract as confirmation of my company's intent to place the indicated ad. Placing this ad makes my company responsible for the stated contracted cost.

Name (printed) _____

Signature _____ Date _____