

REDUCING COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

Pilot study of a solution to community interaction and joint response. Supported by technology data.

Controlled framework in which a community decides on the vulnerability reduction program in which “x” amount of dollars will be allocated according to the decision of the community.

Risk assessment should involve all interested and affected people. They should work together to define risk in a particular situation.

Involving public and private sector is central to the research project

Facilitated by computer networking:

Supported by data and information involving government officials, representatives of business communities, and various members of local communities.

Information management that enables community to identify threats and responses

Distribution of kiosks/stations or downloadable components or website

Recruitment of participants for this project will be a challenge without real money.

Who should the people be?

Do you want activists or average joes?

Focus not on leaders, but influential community members.

Knowledgeable people. Not making policy.

Listening to each other and relaying information to their community.

When something does happen, communities want to be involved. The issue is not all big business.

This study will provide a computer based community forum to allow members of NYC community to say how they would deal with a risk assessment in the event of another terrorist attack.

Allow different social groups to share their values. Work with community to get at what they see as risks compared to what a technical and insurance community thinks is important.

What are the merits of each perspective? What does that imply for decision making? Do you try to convince others of your view or negotiate?

Moves away from focus on big business and big government. Sharing valuable information and assess how opinion changes in the wake of better information. GIS component. Small scale of the ideal community life. Main focus is on shared information.

What are vulnerabilities of the community to extreme events?

Engage in a productive discussions about different risks. What is going unmet? Those that are disadvantaged are not often heard.

Example:

Health concerns – health care professional shortage that could put the community in an even more vulnerable position. Sharing community risks.

Sensible risk reduction. Prioritizing within a community. Optimal resource allocation.

How do behaviors and community actions impact private security actions? Community based links between security measures and costs to society

Example: should we rebuild WTC as it was? There are community opinions. How do people assess risk? What do they want to protect the most? Do we want to rebuild a terrorist magnet in our neighborhood?

Research questions:

How do results depend on number of categories presented?

How does variance across people in a community depend on the composition of the community? Demographically heterogeneous vs. homogenous – does voting depend on location or demographics?

Broadening the definition of value to include the views of the community, not just the views of the economists.

Community budgeting. Making cost a factor in community deliberations. Prioritizing within community.

Private corporations could give money to community plans.

-- What are potential outcomes

More effective risk communication and understanding.

Could effect property values and insurance premiums if money is spent wisely.

Determine if community decisions are in fact different from “expert” decisions.

Internet chat room vs. town meeting – which is more effective?

-- Funding options

insurance industry

Foundations – grassroots, social change

Local corporations

Municipal govt grant

Port Authority

Multi-state coastal authorities

Dept of Education/community education