

Disasters Roundtable



WHAT IS THE DISASTERS ROUNDTABLE?

The Disasters Roundtable (DR) facilitates the exchange of ideas among scientists, practitioners, and policymakers to identify urgent and important issues related to the understanding and mitigation of natural, technological, and other disasters. The Disasters Roundtable (DR) is a unit of the Division on Earth and Life Studies in the National Academies National Research Council.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

As our nation and the world face increasing threats from extreme weather events, geological hazards, and disease pandemics, we must fundamentally shift our policies and actions. We know the United States is particularly vulnerable due to its large populations living and working in high risk areas: seismic zones, coastal and riverine flood plains, and dense urban population centers. Catastrophic events can and will happen. Are we resilient enough to ensure that our nation and society can recover and thrive after such events? There are three areas where change is occurring now, and where with investment and leadership a fundamental paradigm shift can occur:

- Building and sustaining community resilience.
- Creating a collaborative and enabling preparedness and response culture.
- Using science and technology to replace reactive doctrine with proactive, agile systems.



Roundtable Chair Jack Harrald testifying at a hearing of the Senate Subcommittee on State, Local, and Private Sector Preparedness and Integration (photo credit: Willis Bretz/CNP)

Involvement and leadership from government, the private sector, NGOs, and academia are crucial in all three paradigm changing trends. The Disasters Roundtable plays a key role in bringing these groups together to foster discussion and collaboration.

Jack Harrald, Chair
Disasters Roundtable

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

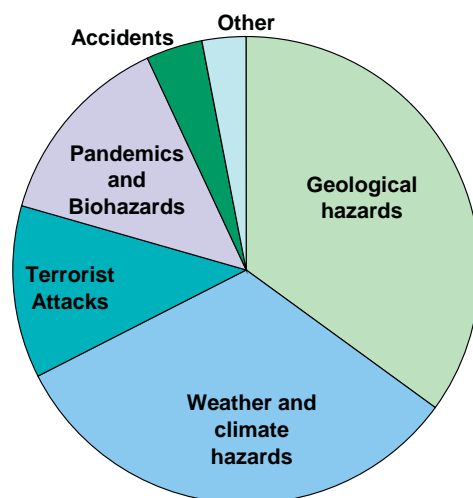
BECOME A CATALYST FOR CHANGE

PROMOTE INTEGRATION AND COLLABORATION

INFORM POLICY

WHO WE ARE

The Disasters Roundtable is composed of experts from government, academia, and the private sector. Expertise is especially strong in the areas of climate-related and geologic disasters, and members have expertise relating to biohazards, terrorism, and other disasters (see figure).



DR Member connections to disasters community

THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

Advisers to the Nation on Science, Engineering, and Medicine

Disasters Roundtable

WHAT WE DO

The Disasters Roundtable works to facilitate knowledge and idea exchange through a range of activities:

WORKSHOPS

Roundtable workshops are held two or three times a year and focus on a specific topic or issue selected by Disasters Roundtable members. Workshops cover a range of specific topics, but typically come under one of four broad themes (see inset)

LISTENING SESSIONS

The Disasters Roundtable holds periodic "Listening Sessions" with its constituents in the disasters community to ensure that the work of the Roundtable remains pertinent to the community it aims to serve.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

The Disasters Roundtable coordinates with other groups or organizations, such as the World Bank, to host and plan events of interest to the disasters community.

DISASTERS ROUNDTABLE WORKSHOP COMMON THEMES

CLIMATE AND NATURAL HAZARDS Workshops focus on disasters caused by extreme weather events and shifts in climate, such as hurricanes, rising sea levels and coastal erosion, flooding, and wildfires.

GEOLOGICAL HAZARDS Workshops focus on disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis. How can we build communities to reduce the risks posed by these geologic threats?

PLANNING AND PREPAREDNESS Workshops focus on pre-disaster phases and activities. How can communities, states, and the nation develop effective methods of mitigating disaster impacts and responding quickly when disasters occur?

RESILIENCE AND RECOVERY Workshops focus on recovering and learning from disasters. How can we rebuild and develop resilient communities to better weather the next disaster event?

Past workshop summaries may be found online at:
<http://dels.nas.edu/dr/reports.php>

SOURCES OF SUPPORT

Federal

NASA

FEMA

NSF

NOAA

USGS

DHS

Other Support

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

PB Americas, Inc

Dewberry

PERI

ROUNDTABLE MEMBERS

JACK HARRALD, Chair, George Washington University, Virginia Tech

FRANK BEST, PB Americas, Inc.

ANDREW J. BRUZEWICZ, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

ARRIETTA CHAKOS, Acting in Time Disaster Project, Harvard University

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