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A sensitivity analysis of threats to society in emergency planning

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Cranfield University Research Ethics System (CURES) reference 15145

1. Background and aims of the study

This study hopes to answer the following questions:

Can risk assessment of national and local risks be improved by prioritizing the impacts of risks, rather than the risk itself?

Current approaches to societal risk assessment can cause errors due to subjective assessment of perils. E.g. certain perils will have a dread factor which can skew the impact assessment. They also leave out many important attributes of a peril, e.g. the ability to mitigate it. This limits the ability of activities like the National Risk Assessment to support emergency planning and preparedness and can result in inefficient resource allocation.

This study will involve the following steps:

- Creation of candidate list of risks
- Creation of a candidate list of risk attributes
- Allocation of attribute values to each risk
- Ranking of the risk attributes by emergency planners [Survey Stage 1]
- Ranking of the risk by emergency planners [Survey Stage 2]
- Creation of a prioritised planning index
- Combination of PPI with vulnerability (exposure) to the risks
- Creation of a new matrix and order of priority of risks
- Comparison of matrix with current National Risk Registers
- Interviews with planners to discuss results [Interview]

All participants will be asked to take part in Survey Stage 1. Participants will then be asked if they are happy to proceed to the following stages.

2. Why have I been invited to take part?

You have been invited to take part because your job is deeply linked with the management of emergency planning and risk.



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There are no exclusion criteria for the study.

3. *Do I have to take part?*

You can ask questions about the study before deciding whether or not to participate. If you do agree to participate, you may withdraw yourself [and your data] from the study at any time, without giving a reason and without penalty, by advising the researchers of this decision.

4. *What will happen in the study?*

If you are happy to take part in the study, you will be asked to complete an online survey initially.

This should take approximately 45 minutes

You may be asked to then take place in a follow up survey or interview. You are not required to do these, but it is very valuable for the study. If you wish, you can specify you would like to be involved in all stages.

5. *Are there any potential risks in taking part?*

There are no risks to you in taking part in this study. No personal information is required other than a contact email address. You are not being asked to disclose any sensitive personal or government information.

6. *Are there any benefits in taking part?*

If you do volunteer for all the stages, you will be provided with a copy of the matrix, amended with your local priorities. This may help you framing discussions about priorities in future.

7. *What happens to the data provided?*

The **research data** will be gathered online using Qualtrics survey software. The data will be stored in a secure online database initially during collection, then downloaded to a standalone system which is not connected to the internet.

Your responses will only be associated to an email. This will be used to create a master index so that the data is stored independent of any identifying material, but that you can still be contacted for follow up discussion.

No personal or sensitive data will be stored other than emails.

8. *Will the research be published?*

The research may be published in appropriate journals, e.g. Resilience, Crisis Response and the Journal of the Society of Risk Analysis. No identifying (personal or geographic) data will be published.

9. *Who has reviewed this study?*

This study has been reviewed by, and received ethics clearance through, the Cranfield University Research Ethics System (CURES). Reference: 15145

10. *Who do I contact if I have a concern about the study or I wish to complain?*

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, please speak to the relevant researcher, Steve Johnson on 07585 798479 or via email at s.johnson@cranfield.ac.uk who will do their best to answer your query. The researcher should acknowledge your concern within 10 working days and give you an indication of how they intend to deal with it. If you remain unhappy or wish to make a formal complaint, please contact the Supervisor, Professor Tracey Temple, in the first instance at t.temple@cranfield.ac.uk.