

September 16, 2004

Dear Hazards Researcher/Professional:

We are pleased to invite you to the a workshop sponsored by North Carolina State University (NCSU), the North Carolina Institute of Disaster Studies (IDS), and North Carolina Division of Emergency Management (NCEM). The workshop theme is **“Determining Disaster Data Needs for a Multi-Stage, Multi-Disaster Context,”** to be held Thursday and Friday, November 4 and 5, 2004 at the Brownstone Hotel adjacent to the NCSU campus in Raleigh.

As an invited participant we are asking you to attend the workshop and participate by sharing your expertise in the handling of disaster-related data. All participants are individuals who are involved in disaster preparedness either before, during or after an event. By including participants from all phases of disaster management, we will be able to define the data needs, resources and gaps throughout the disaster management cycle. Many of you have been invited because of your previous participation in IDS and NCEM’s disaster management efforts.

The goals for the workshop are as follows:

- Define information needs to support a disaster management system
- Establish the quality, format and location of the data resources involved
- Identify data gaps and possibilities to improve data collection and dissemination methods
- Verify commonality in disaster information among multiple disaster types
- Define objectives for pre-disaster organized disaster data gathering teams

Participants will breakout into small groups of approximately 8-12 members to discuss information needs, existing data resources, data gaps, and disaster data dissemination. Because disaster information is short-lived, opportunities to add additional data collecting capacity inexpensively to the existing data collecting infrastructure, such as temperature monitoring on bridges and building inspector records, will be the focus of discussion. The disaster workshop will also include a visit to the Constructed Facilities Laboratory (CFL) on the NCSU Centennial Campus in order to demonstrate some of the hazards research resources available in North Carolina.

The major proposed outcome of this workshop is a summary report of the discussion conclusions, which will be sent to all of the participants and available to the disaster management community via a workshop website. The results of research associated with

this workshop will verify the viability and usefulness of a common multi-stage, multi-disaster data set through IDS, NCEM, and others in the disaster community.

Registration costs are covered by a National Science Foundation grant and as a result there is no registration fee for the workshop. The workshop will begin with registration from 8:30 to 9:00 am on Thursday and will conclude at 12:30pm on Friday. Continental breakfast will be provided on Thursday and Friday, and a buffet lunch will be provided on Thursday.

This is an exciting opportunity for you to play a role in improving disaster data management in North Carolina. Please let us know at your earliest convenience but no later than Friday, October 8 of your ability to participate in the workshop. A registration form is attached where you can indicate whether you will be attending. If you cannot attend, we request that you forward this invitation to another colleague in your office/association who would be an appropriate participant. Send all workshop correspondence to Elizabeth Harris at [eagrafpe@ncsu.edu](mailto:eagrafpe@ncsu.edu), 919.836.1989, or FAX to her at 919.515.7908. We look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

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**Organizing Committee:**

Dr. Ken Taylor, Director, North Carolina Division of Emergency Management  
*Institute of Disaster Studies:*  
Dr. Edd Hauser, Director, Center for Transportation Policy Studies, UNC Charlotte  
Dr. Stephen Meinhold, Department of Political Science, UNC Wilmington  
*North Carolina State University:*  
Dr. Debra Laefer, Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering  
Dr. William Rasdorf, Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering

Attachments (2)