

## **Community Sustainability Teams**

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By Ilan Kelman, Risk RED

<http://www.ilankelman.org>

<http://www.riskred.org>

Suggestions to the author via <http://www.ilankelman.org/contact.html>

Many examples of community-based teams for disaster risk reduction exist (see references below). The principles and practices of these teams apply directly to community-based work for other development, environment, and sustainability endeavours. For communities tackling longer-term trends such as desertification and climate change; for communities tackling day-to-day concerns such as water, food, energy, and health; and for communities tackling deeper causes of these challenges manifesting such as poverty, injustice, and inequity, the “community teams” concept can be drawn directly from disaster risk reduction work.

Dealing with crisis often develops a sense of camaraderie and trust amongst those involved. Specific disaster-related skills in first aid, building rescue, and water rescue help to save lives in the immediate aftermath of a specific event, but also foster the ability to address other challenges, to create a community which works together irrespective of the threat, and to apply collaborative, grassroots values and attitudes to any challenge.

Interest is often generated for developing community skills and community spirit by highlighting high profile events, such as hurricanes and earthquakes, or by placing the work within the context of current paradigms, for example terrorism and homeland security in the USA. Maintaining that interest can be harder without specific events or when paradigms change. In contrast, ever-present day-to-day concerns could be considered by using the community teams’ talents and energy for other activities, whether that be picking up litter or conducting vulnerability assessments to inspire action for vulnerability reduction.

Such teams could then be called “community sustainability teams”, available to undertake flexible and varying projects by learning and expanding their skill set and expertise.

### **Further reading**

Community Relocalisation Teams <http://www.ilankelman.org/relocalisation/crt.doc>

Community Vulnerability Reduction Teams; see the bottom of page 5 at <http://www.ilankelman.org/fpp.pdf>

Could football and flash mobs save the planet?

<http://www.ilankelman.org/abstracts/kelmanceb2004.pdf>

One Post-Disaster Mission Too Many?

<http://www.seas.gwu.edu/~emse232/march2004guestperspective1.html>

## Examples of community-based teams for disaster risk reduction

- Abarquez, I. and Z. Murshed. 2004. *Community-Based Disaster Risk Management: Field Practitioners' Handbook*. ADPC (Asia Disaster Preparedness Centre), Bangkok, Thailand.
- Bajek, R., Y. Matsuda, and N. Okada. 2007. "Japan's *Jishu-bosai-soshiki* community activities: analysis of its role in participatory community disaster risk management". *Natural Hazards*, 44(2): 281-292.
- Boura, J. 1998. "Community Fireguard: Creating Partnerships with the Community to Minimise the Impact of Bushfire". *Australian Journal of Emergency Management*, 13(3): 59-64.
- Brennan, M.A. and C.G. Flint. 2007. "Uncovering The Hidden Dimensions Of Rural Disaster Mitigation: Capacity Building Through Community Emergency Response Teams". *Southern Rural Sociology*, 22(2): 111-126.
- Brennan, M.A., C.G. Flint, R.V. Barnett. 2005. "Community Volunteers: The Front Line of Disaster Response". *Journal of Volunteer Administration*, 23(4): 52-56.
- Chen, L.-C., Y.-C. Liu, and K.-C. Chan. 2006. "Integrated Community-Based Disaster Management Program in Taiwan: A Case Study of Shang-An Village". *Natural Hazards*, 37: 209-223.
- Characteristics of a Disaster-resilient Community  
<http://www.proventionconsortium.org/?pageid=90>
- Chennai India's all-woman first-aid brigade trainers.
- Community Risk Assessment Toolkit  
<http://www.proventionconsortium.org/?pageid=39>
- Community Disaster Volunteer Training Program (Turkey)  
[http://www.ahep.org/ev/egitim5\\_0e.htm](http://www.ahep.org/ev/egitim5_0e.htm)
- Community Emergency Response Team (USA) <https://www.citizencorps.gov/cert>
- Flint, C. and M. Brennan. 2006. "Community Emergency Response Teams: From Disaster Responders to Community Builders". *Rural Realities*, 1(3): 1-9.
- Geis, D. 2000. "By design: the disaster-resistant and quality-of-life community". *Natural Hazards Review*, 1(3): 151-160.
- Hennessy, M. 1998. "Effective Community Collaboration in Emergency Management". *Australian Journal of Emergency Management*, 13(2): 12-13.

Kelman, I. 2008. "Relocalising Disaster Risk Reduction for Urban Resilience". *Urban Design and Planning*, 161(DP4): 197-204. The journal did not make three changes requested at the proof stage, so the journal's published version has errors. The full text with three corrections is available at <http://www.ilankelman.org/articles1/kelman2008udp.pdf>

Kelman, I. and E. Karnes. 2007. "Relocalising Disaster Risk Reduction in Boulder, Colorado". *Australian Journal of Emergency Management*, 22(1): 18-25.

Downloadable from

[http://www.ema.gov.au/agd/EMA/rwpattach.nsf/VAP/\(A80860EC13A61F5BA8C1121176F6CC3C\)~AJEM\\_Feb07\\_Kelman.pdf/\\$file/AJEM\\_Feb07\\_Kelman.pdf](http://www.ema.gov.au/agd/EMA/rwpattach.nsf/VAP/(A80860EC13A61F5BA8C1121176F6CC3C)~AJEM_Feb07_Kelman.pdf/$file/AJEM_Feb07_Kelman.pdf)

Map Your Neighborhood programmes across the USA, including StormReady <http://www.weather.gov/stormready> and TsunamiReady <http://www.tsunamiready.noaa.gov>

Oestensvig, I. 2006. *Interagency cooperation in disaster management: partnership, information and communications technology and committed individuals in Jamaica*. Masters thesis at the Norwegian University Of Life Sciences, Ås, Norway, details community teams in Jamaica, full text at <http://www.islandvulnerability.org/m/oestensvig.pdf>

Ogawa, Y., A.L. Fernandez, and T. Yoshimura. 2005. "Town watching as a Tool for Citizen Participation in Developing Countries: Applications in Disaster Training". *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters*, 23(2): 5-36.

Perry, R.W. and M.K. Lindell. 2003. "Understanding Citizen Response to Disasters with Implications for Terrorism". *Journal of Contingencies and Crisis Management*, 11(2): 49-60.

Perry, R.W. 2004. "Disaster Exercise Outcomes for Professional Emergency Personnel and Citizen Volunteers". *Journal of Contingencies and Crisis Management*, 12(2): 64-75.

Ready Neighborhood programmes across the USA, for instance in Washington <http://emd.wa.gov/myn/index.shtml>

Shanghai Principles

<http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/downloads/THESHANGHAIPRINCIPLES.doc>

Simpson, D. 2001. "Community Emergency Response Training (CERTs): A Recent History and Review". *Natural Hazards Review*, 2(2): 54-63.

Simpson, D.M. 2002. "Earthquake Drills and Simulations in Community-based Training and Preparedness Programmes". *Disasters*, 26(1): 55-69.

Teen School Emergency Response Training (USA) <http://www.cert-la.com/links/teensert.htm>

Training and Learning Circles

<http://www.proventionconsortium.org/?pageid=32&projectid=32>

Twigg, J. 1999-2000. "The Age of Accountability?: Future Community Involvement in Disaster Reduction". *Australian Journal of Emergency Management*, 14(4): 51-58.

Wingspread Principles <http://www.smartcommunities.ncat.org/wingspread2/wingprin.shtml>