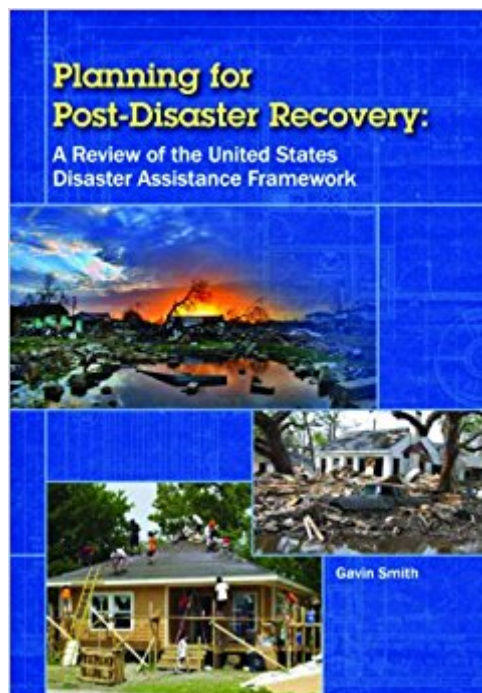




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Planning For Post-Disaster Recovery: A Review Of The United States Disaster Assistance Framework



Synopsis

The failure to plan for disaster recovery results in a process of rebuilding that often presages the next disaster. It also limits the collective maximization of governmental, nonprofit, and private resources, including those resources that are available at the community level. As individuals, groups, communities, and organizations routinely struggle to recover from disasters, they are beset by a duplication of efforts, poor interorganizational coordination, the development and implementation of policies that are not shaped by local needs, and the spread of misinformation. Yet investment in pre-event planning for post-disaster recovery remains low. Although researchers pointed to this problem at least twenty-five years ago, an unfortunate reality remains: disaster recovery is the least understood aspect of emergency management among both scholars and practitioners. In addition, the body of knowledge that does exist has not been effectively disseminated to those who engage in disaster recovery activities. *Planning for Post-Disaster Recovery* blends what we know about disaster recovery from the research literature with an analysis of existing practice to uncover problems and recommend solutions. It is intended for hazard scholars, practitioners, and others who have not assimilated or acted upon the existing body of knowledge, or who are unexpectedly drawn into the recovery process following a disaster.

Book Information

Paperback: 456 pages

Publisher: Island Press; 2 edition (August 17, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 159726945X

ISBN-13: 978-1597269452

Product Dimensions: 7 x 1.2 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Best Sellers Rank: #300,240 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #130 in Books > Arts &

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"A remarkably thorough and readable explanation of the non-system of planning for recovery that exists in the U.S. and ways to improve it... This book is a must-read for anyone who might wind up

dealing with the aftermath of a disaster." (Planning)

Gavin Smith is the Executive Director of the Center for the Study of Natural Hazards and Disasters (UNC Hazards Center) and the Department of Homeland Security's Center of Excellence in Disasters, Coastal Infrastructure and Emergency Management (DIEM). He is also a Research Professor in the Department of City and Regional Planning at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and teaches courses in Disaster Recovery, Hazard Mitigation and Special Topics.

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