

Handout 12.2: Homework Assignment (Due in one week)

1. Research the case history of Hurricane Andrew in 1992 via the Internet. Note that some hazard assessments indicate that despite the apparent lessons learned from this event, the region is now more at risk than before. Explain why. Also, what lesson(s) does this teach you that is important for your job as an emergency manager?

2. During lecture, we discussed the fact that, in addition to weak infrastructure in seismically-prone areas, the following factors also affect vulnerability. Explain how each of the following affect earthquake vulnerability. Provide explanations and/or give examples.
 - The size and nature of the affected population.
 - The condition of the economy.
 - The values and practices of the culture.
 - The political system.
 - Various aspects of social differentiation.

Handout 12.2: Homework Assignment (Answers)

1. Research the case history of Hurricane Andrew in 1992 via the Internet. Note that some hazard assessments indicate that despite the apparent lessons learned from this event, the region is now more at risk than before. Explain why. Also, what lesson does this teach you this is important for your job as a hazard manager?
 - Building standards were continually eroded by pressure from developers, builder, such that many practices appear to be less safe than before he vent. This coupled with population growth means that current risk there is probably higher. Shows the importance of maintaining standards and long-term continual efforts need in mitigation, etc.

2. During lecture, we discussed the fact that, in addition to weak infrastructure in seismically prone areas, the following factors also affect vulnerability. Explain how each of the following affects earthquake vulnerability:
 - The size and nature of the affected population – larger population more vulnerable; more economically developed, better educated population less vulnerable.
 - The condition of the economy – poor economy always associated with increased vulnerability.
 - The values and practices of the culture – influences building practice, enforcement of codes.
 - The political system – has much influence on code regulations, distribution of knowledge and technology, funding for mitigating, influences values laced on mitigation, etc.
 - Various aspects of social differentiation – more dichotomy between classes means increased risk for lower classes.