

Mid-Term Examination

Instructions: Select two of the six topics presented below. Write an essay for each. Limit each essay to the equivalent of six typed pages (double spaced). Each essay will be evaluated independently and weighted equally (14 points). Include a separate page of references cited. Sign your name at the end of each essay to indicate that it is **your** work. Due (date) in class. (Allow one week).

Examination Questions:

1. Write an essay entitled: “Disasters Are Social Problems.” In your essay summarize benchmarks in the history of disaster research and explain why it is useful to view disasters as a type of social problem. Include in your analysis discussion of the disaster life cycle, terrorism, and looting behavior. Explain why emergency managers should understand the interdependence among other social problems such as crime, poverty, and failing public education systems.
2. Write an essay entitled: “From Terrorism to Tornadoes: The Building Blocks of Community Preparedness,.” In your essay identify and illustrate the four phases in the life cycle of a disaster. Explain how these define the four functions that comprise All-Hazards Emergency Management. Select one of the functions and discuss three broad strategies that are relevant. Select one of these strategies and briefly describe two specific tactics relevant to terrorism preparedness and two that are relevant to tornado preparedness. Cite relevant research and include illustrations pertaining to specific terrorism attacks and tornado events where appropriate.
3. Write an essay entitled: “Fundamentals of Disaster Warning Systems.” In your essay explain the concept of “constraint” through discussion of social factors like warning message characteristics and receiver characteristics. Include answers to these questions: What are the most common warning and confirmation sources? What are “special populations”? Why must emergency managers recognize community diversity? What seven functions must be accomplished if a warning system is to be effective?
4. Write an essay entitled: “What Every Emergency Manager Must Know About Disaster Mythology.” In your essay identify and illustrate five myths about disaster responses. Summarize relevant social research. Explain why knowledge of these myths is relevant to emergency managers.
5. Write an essay entitled: “Human Response to Disaster: Lessons For Emergency Managers.” Organize your essay, following an introduction, around five key lessons. Include among your lessons research findings relevant to both victim and non-victim behavior. Explain the concepts of “convergence behavior” and “therapeutic communities” somewhere in your essay.

6. Write an essay entitled: “Building Theoretical Models: A Perspective on Research For Emergency Managers.” In your essay explain and illustrate the concept of a theoretical model, the steps in the construction of a theoretical model and three types of data collection techniques. What are four common weaknesses in disaster research studies and why should emergency managers be aware of these?