

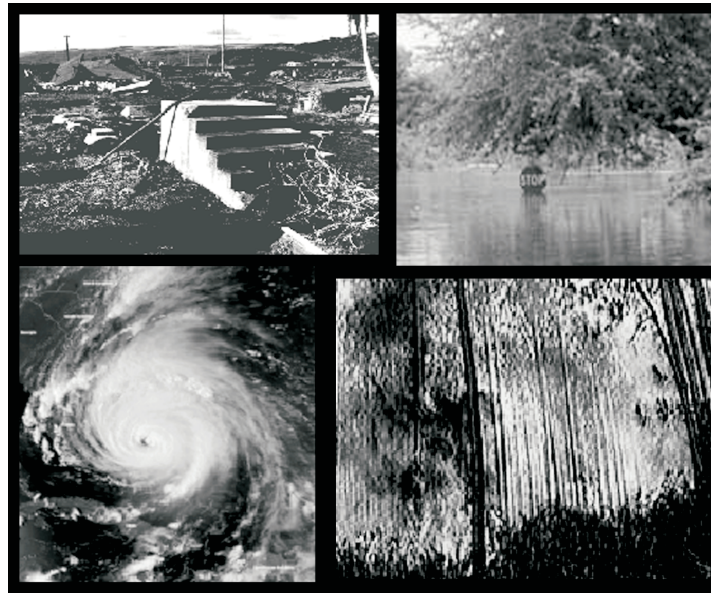
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE/ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

OFCM



OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL COORDINATOR FOR
METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AND SUPPORTING RESEARCH

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE FORUM ON
RISK MANAGEMENT AND ASSESSMENTS
OF NATURAL HAZARDS**



**February 5-6, 2001
Hotel Washington
Washington, D.C.**

***Toward a Safer America: Building Natural Hazard Resistant
Communities Through Risk Management and Assessments***

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FOREWORD

The Forum on Risk Management and Assessments of Natural Hazards was held on February 5-6, 2001 at the Hotel Washington, Washington, D.C. The theme of the Forum was "*Toward a Safer America: Building Natural Hazard Resistant Communities through Risk Management and Assessments.*" An unprecedented cross-section of more than 120 weather, natural disaster and risk management professionals, and academia attended the Forum. The Forum was sponsored by the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research (OFCM) and the National Science and Technology Council, Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (CENR), Subcommittee on Natural Disaster Reduction (SNDR).

The purpose of this Forum was to assess the state of risk assessment and management for natural hazards. To do this, Federal research, applications, services, implementations, and public outreach programs were reviewed. In addition, the attendees discussed national standards for models, data or values used in risk assessment. They continued previous studies and work by examining and identifying national vulnerabilities that could be evaluated and mitigated. The overarching objectives of the Forum were to:

- Examine risk assessment processes and approaches that evolved from legislation or agency guidance;
- Review risk assessment research and its applications to manage natural hazards;
- Identify areas of vulnerability and exposure, probability of occurrence, consequences, and mitigation opportunities;
- Highlight efforts in developing national standards and capabilities for data monitoring, data collection, and model development;
- Examine methods to quantify and publicize the social and economic impacts of natural hazards; and
- Develop a consensus leading to coordinated risk assessment and management of natural hazards.

This document summarizes the proceedings of the Forum, captures the recommendations of the breakout sessions and panels, and summarizes the overarching issues and actions that surfaced during the Forum.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the United States Forest Service (USFS) for co-hosting this important Forum. I am indebted to the membership of the Interdepartmental Committee for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research (ICMSSR) and the SNDR for their support and guidance. In addition, I wish to extend my deepest appreciation to the panelists, moderators, rapporteurs, and attendees whose lively involvement, interaction, discussion, and interest made this meeting a solid success.

Samuel P. Williamson
Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services
and Supporting Research

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FORUM ON
RISK MANAGEMENT AND ASSESSMENTS OF NATURAL HAZARDS

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