

The National Academies of
SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE

Disaster Response During a Pandemic

Spring Meeting of the Geographical Sciences Committee

May 20, 2021

12:00pm–3:30pm Eastern/9:00am–12:30pm Pacific

Over the past year, responses to natural disasters have been complicated by the need to incorporate public health measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. In the wake of recent deadly winter storms and tornadoes and as the hurricane and wildfire seasons approach, what have we learned about responding to disasters during a pandemic that could be applied to the coming year? What do we still need to know? Join the National Academies' Geographical Sciences Committee for a conversation with researchers and decision- and policy-makers about what a year of responding to disasters during a pandemic has taught us and what problems we are still trying to solve.

12:00-1:45PM Eastern/9:00-10:45am Pacific

SESSION 1: DECISION MAKERS

AFTER A YEAR OF ADDRESSING HAZARDS AND DISASTER RESPONSE DURING A PANDEMIC, WHAT UNANSWERED QUESTIONS REMAIN FOR RESPONDING TO HAZARDS IN THE MIDST OF A PANDEMIC?

Panelists:

Carol Moehrle, District Director, Idaho North Central Public Health District

Heather Roiter, Assistant Commissioner, Risk Reduction and Recovery, NYC Emergency Management

Steven Steinberg, LA County Geographical Information Officer

Chris Vaughan, Geospatial Information Officer, FEMA

1:45PM Eastern/10:45am Pacific

Break

2:00-2:45PM Eastern/11:00-11:45am Pacific

SESSION 2: RESEARCHERS

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED FROM DEALING WITH HAZARDS IN THE FIRST YEAR OF COVID-19 THAT WE COULD APPLY HAZARDS AND DISASTER RESPONSE IN 2021?

Speakers:

Miho Mazereeuw, Associate Professor of Architecture and Urbanism and
Director of the Urban Risk Lab at MIT

Steven Quiring, Professor, The Ohio State University

2:45-3:30PM Eastern/11:45am-12:30pm Pacific

SESSION 3: DISCUSSION WITH ALL PANELISTS