



Risk Mapping Contest for Local Communities

What Is a Community Risk Map?

A risk map is a map of a community or geographical zone that identifies the places and the buildings—homes, schools, health facilities and others—that might be adversely affected in the event of hurricanes, earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, volcanic eruptions, landslides, and other natural hazards and related technological or environmental disasters.

Risk mapping is a group effort. Many people with various kinds of expertise—emergency management, geology, meteorology, history, or simply a good knowledge of the locality— participate in the effort by providing their own input about which places in the community are vulnerable to hazardous events.

Who Can Participate?

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| Community organizations. | Municipalities. |
| Local healthcare workers. | Local Emergency Committees. |
| Religious groups. | Non-governmental organizations. |
| Any other groups wishing to participate and organize themselves to do so. | |

What Should the Risk Map Include?

It should be a map of the community or area at risk indicating the most significant facilities, such as schools, hospitals, churches, the Red Cross, fire-fighters or police headquarters, the City Hall or other municipal buildings. The Risk Map should also include especially hazardous buildings in the area, such as factories or other work places. The different types of buildings should be identified by a distinctive symbol. The map may also include the main streets, roads, and bridges; significant electricity and water supply lines; areas exposed to flooding or landslides due to excessive deforestation or any other reason; and densely populated areas that are vulnerable to natural disasters. Different colors may be used to indicate the degree of risk: severe, moderate or light.

How Should the Risk Map Be Produced?

- Organize a series of walks or drives around the community or the area under consideration to identify areas or features at risk.
- Hold meetings to discuss the findings of this reconnaissance effort and the reasons why some areas are considered at risk.
- Discuss possible solutions to reduce risk.
- Collaborate in the drawing of the map.

What Will the Prizes Be?

The winners of the contests will receive grants towards disaster reduction projects in their schools and local communities. In addition, the winning maps—and any others considered noteworthy—will be published in a commemorative volume and will be exhibited. All maps submitted will become the property of the ISDR Secretariat and will not be returned to the contestants. Participants are encouraged to keep copies of their maps and distribute them as widely as possible in their community.

Please send your Risk Maps by 21 september 2001

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