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Digital Platform Maximizes Disaster Response Effectiveness

Prioritizing Resources Helps Save Lives

Project Name: Disaster Response Network-Enabled Platform

Project Lead: University of British Columbia

CANARIE Contribution: $1.5M

Participants:

- University of Western Ontario, London, ON
- University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, NB

What *is* the Disaster Response Network-Enabled Platform?

The Disaster Response Network-Enabled Platform is a dynamic online disaster response and training environment. It links experts with specialized and diverse disaster knowledge through an online command centre that enables disaster responders to explore the impact of their decisions in a simulated disaster environment.

This integrated virtual community enables disaster responders to prepare for and respond effectively to tsunamis, earthquakes, hurricanes, ice storms, terrorist attacks, pandemics, floods, forest fires, and other disasters.

As part of this project, two scenarios will be tested: the recent Japan disaster of March 2011,with actual data from the event,and a simulated event occurring on the campus of the University of Western Ontario. Using the CANARIE high-speed network, scenarios will be run in real time with Canadian and international partners.

Value to Research and to Canada:

- Has the potential to save lives and maximize the effectiveness of disaster response
- Uses historical disaster response data, together with the intelligence of the virtual research community, to formulate best practices in disaster response
- Leverages Canadian and international data and expertise to create a powerful disaster-response tool

Did you know?

Natural disasters account for 70% of all disasters occurring in Canada. The number of annual natural hazard-related threats should continue along an upward trend, according to Public Safety Canada.

Effective disaster response maximizes use of limited relief and rescue resources.

Rapid, effective response can save lives.

Find out more: www.CANARIE.ca/en/programs