

Outreach, Education and Technical Assistance: What We Can Do Differently

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Lake Champlain Sea Grant

Hazardous Events

Caused by:

- Climate related changes
- Land-use changes
- Accidents related to economic activities

Focus on fist two

Goals: Improving response and resilience

- **Broad understanding of the risks** of living, working, and doing business in hazard prone areas
- **Building community capacity** to prepare for and respond to hazardous events

Education and outreach helps communities

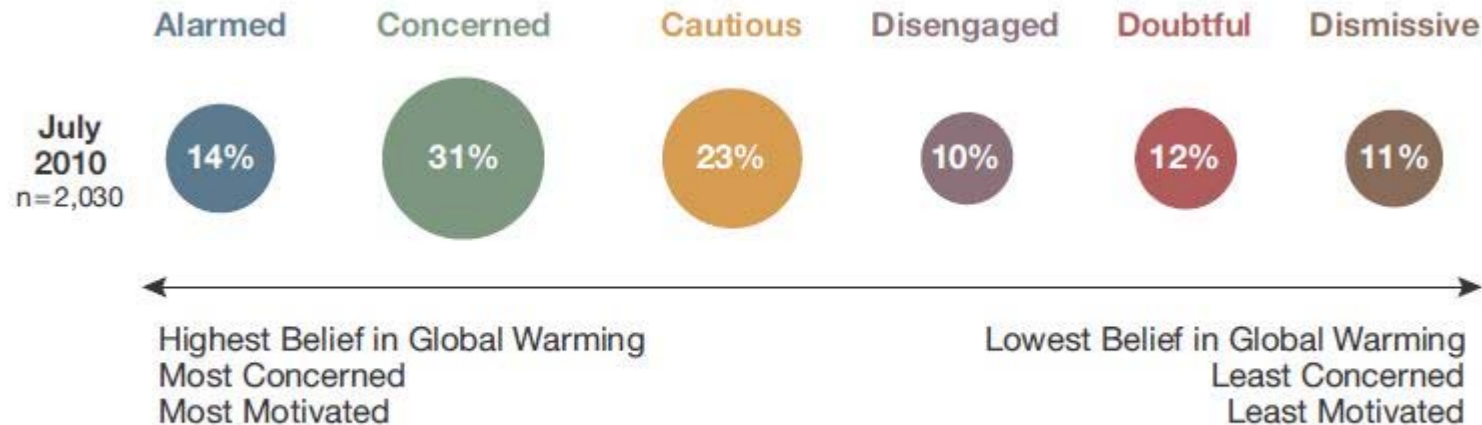
- understand how hazardous events occur
- realistically assess the risks
- understand vulnerability
- identify the available options to reduce risk, vulnerability
- Consider both risk and options in decision making
- how to prepare for and respond to hazardous events

Audiences

- Public
- K-12 youth and teachers
- Businesses community
- Planners and agency staff
- Elected officials

Educating the Public

- Awareness of the issues
- Individual decision making
- Public policy choices



Proportion represented by area

Source: Yale Project on Climate Change Communication

K-12 youth, teachers and climate change education

Survey of 555 K-12 U.S. science teachers, 47 % are not sure if climate change and associated hazards are valid

In another recent survey of science and environmental studies education majors showed knowledge and understanding of climate change and impacts was “unacceptably low”

US Teens

- Less than 1 in 5 are “very well informed” about how the climate system works or the different causes, consequences, or potential solutions to global climate change
- Only 27 % say they have learned “a lot” about global climate change in school
- 70 % would like to know more

• *Source: Yale University, American Teens' Knowledge of Climate Change*

Building community capacity among planners and decision makers

- Understand vulnerabilities
- Act on the knowledge
- Develop comprehensive emergency preparedness and response plans

Education and outreach

- Identify development practices to reduce vulnerability
- Assist decision-makers to adopt policies, plans, and ordinances to reduce risks
- Support the use of new technologies to prepare for and mitigate the impacts of hazardous events
- Link to NOAA tools and databases to identify vulnerability and support hazard-related planning activities

NOAA Tools

- forecasting and risk assessment tools
- economic and environmental impact models
- demographic and coastal hazard information databases
- Mapping tools

Home > News > What's New

NOAA's Inundation Analysis Tool Places Flood Data at Planners' Fingertips

May 21, 2012



Fort McHenry, Baltimore Marsh Restoration Project

NOAA's Inundation Analysis Tool provided statistical summaries of data from a NOAA tide station to help guide this marsh restoration project at Fort McHenry in Baltimore. Marsh construction is shown during (top) and immediately following (bottom) an inundation event. Inundation analyses are available for more than 120 tide

For More Information:

- Inundation Analysis Tool
- Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services
- COASTAL Program
- Inundation Analysis User's Guide

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What needs do we do differently in outreach and education?

- Make hazardous events and climate change research relevant on local scales
- Develop education programs on climate change and hazardous events
- Identify concerns of major stakeholders
- Train in best practices to minimize risk and vulnerability
- Help businesses understand effects on business operations, by disrupting suppliers, distribution or customers

Plans are nothing; planning is everything.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

- Integrate local climate change knowledge into hazardous events planning
- Improve access by decision-makers to planning services
- Community demonstration projects to develop policies and adaptive actions
- Help communities identify new opportunities and adapt to changes

Take Home Message

- If all of us **understand of the risks** of hazardous events and climate change, and
- Be more **aware of our vulnerability**
- We can **build our capacity** to better prepare for and respond to hazardous events