

The Technology of Emergency Response to Natural Disasters

Test your knowledge about how technology is used in response to natural disasters. Check ONE response for each of these 10 questions.

1. You are at home during a hurricane and flood waters are starting to lap around your house. Do you...

- 1. call 911 to find out how bad the flooding is going to be
- 2. find the nearest shelter using the app on your smart phone and go to it
- 3. get up in the attic and wait it out

2. You are at home along the Oregon coast when a monster earthquake strikes offshore. Do you...

- 1. consult the tsunami alert app on your smart phone
- 2. get up in the attic and wait it out
- 3. run for high ground as fast as your legs can carry you

3. You are a National Hurricane Center employee tasked with predicting the path and strength of a hurricane. Do you rely primarily on...

- 1. satellite sensors
- 2. radio reports from ships at sea
- 3. a large network of reports from local TV and radio stations

4. You are a National Weather Service employee tasked with predicting the path and strength of a tornado in Kansas. Do you rely primarily on...

- 1. satellite sensors
- 2. a large number of reports from local TV and radio stations
- 3. doppler radar
- 4. clicking your ruby slippers three times, and repeating, "there's no place like home"...

5. You are a National Hurricane Center employee tasked with estimating the destructive potential of a hurricane. You rely primarily on instrumentation to measure...

- 1. the speed of advance of the hurricane
- 2. the temperature of the air around the hurricane
- 3. barometric pressure
- 4. the hurricane's name in the alphabetical order for the season

6. You just got a job in St Louis and want to buy a home with a view of the Mississippi River, but have heard the river sometimes floods. Do you...

- 1. consult Army Corp of Engineers maps of the 100-year flood plain
- 2. obtain GIS-based maps of recent flooding events
- 3. make sure to consult with multiple real estate agents

7. You are head of a team responding to a wildfire. To detect spot fires, your best course of action is to...

- 1. deploy your team on roads leading to the main fire to conduct a search
- 2. consult Landsat satellite imagery
- 3. deploy a drone

8. Following a major earthquake, your highest priority as an emergency manager is to...

- 1. get the roads and bridges repaired
- 2. get the electrical system back up
- 3. get seismometers deployed to monitor aftershocks

9. Following a snow avalanche, the best way for you as an emergency responder to begin the search for buried people is to...

- 1. bring in the specially equipped excavator-tractors
- 2. conduct a survey with special snow probes
- 3. use a well-trained St. Bernard dog with a GPS sensor attached to its collar
- 4. conduct a transceiver survey

10. NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory has observed that a giant Coronal Mass Ejection from the sun is heading straight for Earth. As an emergency manager, you are most concerned with...

- 1. monitoring resulting lightning strikes that may cause fires
- 2. deploying the national network of Geiger counters
- 3. de-coupling the national power grid