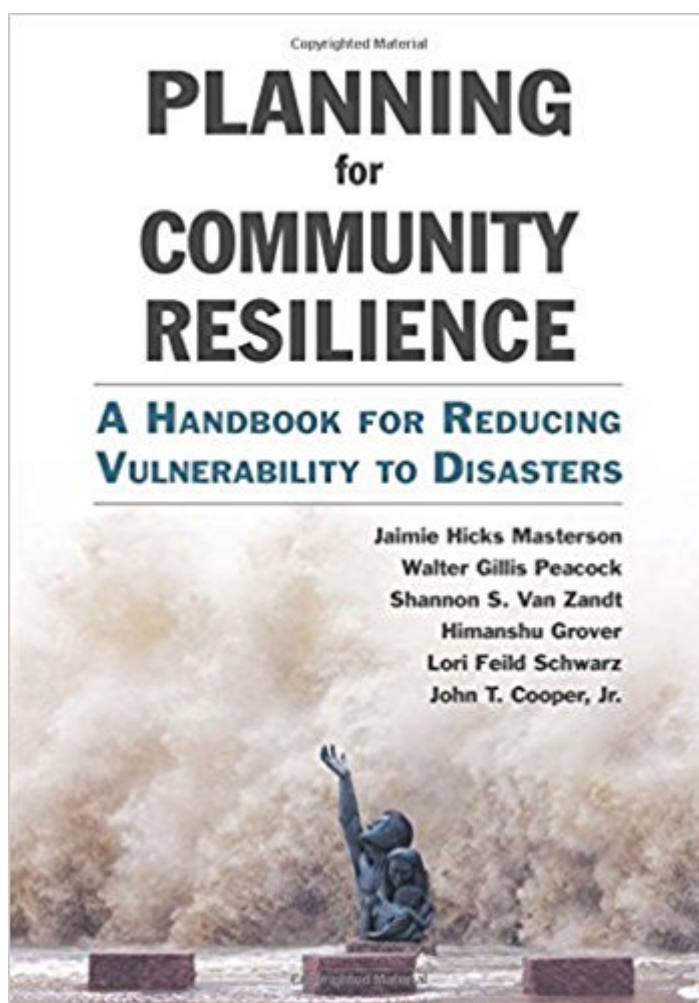


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# Planning For Community Resilience: A Handbook For Reducing Vulnerability To Disasters



## Synopsis

How can we plan and design stronger communities? From New Orleans to Galveston to the Jersey Shore, communities struck by natural disasters struggle to recover long after the first responders have left. Globally, the average annual number of natural disasters has more than doubled since 1980. These catastrophes are increasing in number as well as in magnitude, causing greater damage as we experience rising sea levels and other effects of climate change. Communities can reduce their vulnerability to disaster by becoming more resilient—to not only bounce back more readily from disasters but to grow stronger, more socially cohesive, and more environmentally responsible. To be truly resilient, disaster preparation and response must consider all populations in the community. By bringing together natural hazards planning and community planning to consider vulnerabilities, more resilient and equitable communities are achievable. In *Planning for Community Resilience* the authors describe an inclusive process for creating disaster-resilient communities. Based on their recovery work after Hurricane Ike in Galveston, Texas, they developed a process that relies on the Disaster Impacts Model. This handbook guides any community through the process of determining their level of hazard exposure, physical vulnerability, and social vulnerability with the goal of determining the best planning strategy. *Planning for Community Resilience* will be invaluable to professionals working to protect their community from disturbance, including city planners, elected officials, floodplain managers, natural hazard managers, planning commissioners, local business leaders, and citizen organizers.

## Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Island Press; 2 edition (November 24, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1610915852

ISBN-13: 978-1610915854

Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.6 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #159,258 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #133 in [Books > Arts &](#)

[Photography > Architecture > Urban & Land Use Planning](#) #413 in [Books > Textbooks >](#)

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## Customer Reviews

"Planning for Community Resilience makes it abundantly clear that we must begin to add more focus on mitigation when planning for natural disasters and hazards." (Spacing)"As the United States continues to recover from various natural disasters--destructive storms, earthquakes, and fires among them--the authors suggest that the time to respond to those disasters is before they happen, by addressing vulnerabilities in our communities." (Landscape Architecture Magazine)"A how-to guide for community-level disaster plans [that is] much needed in the disaster management field." (Human Ecology)"A useful and comprehensive starting point for community dialogues about hazards and disasters...[the book] strikes a great balance between clear language and concrete technical guidance, making the advice both accessible and useful." (Journal of Planning Education and Research)"Planning for Community Resilience provides needed emphasis on the crucial role of social and economic attributes in hazard resiliency. Through simple directions and illustrations, the authors demonstrate how to integrate relevant Census indicators into community mapping to identify and address pockets of social vulnerability." (Dr. Betty Hearn Morrow, Professor Emerita, Florida International University)"This book fills a significant void in the literature by bridging research and practice, while offering practical lessons for communities striving to become more resilient." (Gavin Smith, Executive Director, Department of Homeland Security's Coastal Hazards Center of Excellence)"Planning for Community Resilience: A Handbook for Reducing Disasters is a comprehensive book, which is quite an achievement in less than 200 pages. The book begins with a compelling explanation of the emerging threat, pulling no punches with the introductory chapter: 'The Era of Catastrophes.' It then outlines an overall approach to resilience preparedness, a seven-step process that forms the structure of the book. The authors have done an impressive job of assembling a great deal of material from different disciplines. It is rare to come across planners presenting a handbook that also talks about issues of power and participation, critical but often overlooked elements of community engagement and action." (The Nature of Cities)"Exceptionally systematic in thought, clear in language, and energetic in research and implementation, this book will be a much-thumbed resource for anyone involved in dealing with disasters and the prospect of them." (Planning)

This timely handbook brings together the fields of planning, disaster response, and hazards management to provide a field-tested process on how to make communities disaster-resilient.

This book is a painstaking attempt to capture in detail the many elements that go into Planning for

Community Resilience. The objectives of Community Resilience are essentially post Hyogo Framework for Action which means that these attempts are still very young and there is much to be learned as we move into the Sendai decade which basically calls for the anticipation of the future and its modification through action in the present. The subject matter of the book is therefore exciting and contributes towards the building of the future. While the content of the book is relevant and timely its arrangement can be much better. This is possibly because the concepts underlying resilience are not very clear and have not been optimally configured as yet. Resilience belongs to the field of Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Risk Reduction is a part of Disaster Management and there is to my knowledge no systematic approach to Disaster Management s yet and there is not likely to be in the near future since the number of systems thinkers and those able to master the process perspective appear to be very limited and far from enough to handle this field. The lack of systems thinkers shows throughout the global civilization of the species Homo sapiens and it can only be hoped that the need to generate more such thinkers will be perceived, understood and responded to as soon as possible.

Textbook for a class on Resiliency Planning. Good examples for planning.

The book is brand new and is serving its educational purpose.

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