



Flood information from affected people – gains and uncertainties

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For emergency management and reconstruction planning, a broad overview of the flood event is required. For this overview, information from many different sources has to be acquired and integrated. Observations from the affected population can be an important source of information. New Internet technologies facilitate fast and easy data collection from the public, but also interviews with the affected population can be used. A major obstacle for using such kind of information is its unknown quality.

Thus, information about a flood event, i.e. impact data and associated losses collected in telephone interviews, is assessed for its reliability and fitness for use for flood loss modeling. First results show that water level can be estimated by observers with very good accuracy in comparison with results of hydraulic models. Flow velocity, however, is very difficult to estimate and the estimates differ significantly from modeled values. Household specific flood damage data compares very well with official damage information. Some information like precautionary and emergency measures undertaken can only be gained from affected people.