

Torrent Flood Responses and Risk Management Practice in Serbia

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Abstract

The management of natural hazards poses a number of challenges to all parties involved. Many of the major problems identified are found in the area of risk communication: information from existing crisis preparation plans and alarm plans cannot easily be communicated to all relevant stakeholders. Communication between stakeholders active in different phases of disaster management is severely restricted. Very often a lack of information availability and a lack of information integration are found regarding consolidated real-time integration of relevant data and information sources.

Many areas in Europe have been affected by an increasing number of severe torrent flood events in the past few years. Because of these floods numerous measures to improve the organization of disaster management have been taken. This includes the preparation of specific alarm plans for torrent flood disaster events.

Serbian Torrent Flood Defense methodology is in official use for more than ten years. The main goal of this methodology is to timely activate the torrent flood defense system. For successful disaster management, previously prepared plans and a good education of the stakeholders is needed. Observation and forecasting systems must be backed by described parts of the defense system in order to be of practical use.

Key words: Disaster Management, Education, Torrent Flood Defense