

Using Mind Mapping Technology for Personal Preparedness Planning

Alexander Chang, Edbert Hsu

Office Of Critical Event Preparedness And Response, Johns Hopkins, Baltimore/MD/United States of America

Study/Objective: Personal preparedness is a cardinal step to a better prepared community. For the purposes of personal preparedness planning mind maps can be strategically implemented in personal preparedness efforts to structure and synthesize key information.

Background: Mind-mapping is a tool, which visually organizes information portraying complex hierarchies and relationships. As applied to personal-preparedness context, mind maps have potential for: 1) structuring existing information framework 2) conveying knowledge to the public in an accessible intuitive format. Demonstrated mastery of personal and family preparedness for disasters and public health emergencies includes certain objectives, all of which may be tracked or maintained through mind mapping technology. Mind-mapping is vastly superior to traditional checklists in its capability to highlight how, when and what needs to be done. Not only can mind maps be constructed with modest effort to visual-spatially represent and organize relevant information and interrelationships but can also serve as a living document.

Methods: A mixed methods approach was adopted. First, competency sets addressing personal preparedness planning were identified through the peer-reviewed literature. Existing checklists from a variety of sources including *ready.gov*, FEMA, the American Red Cross and academic centers were systematically reviewed. Commercially available software, TheBrain v9.0 beta (Los Angeles, CA, 2016), was used to develop a draft personal preparedness template. <https://www.thebrain.com/products/thebrain/>

Results: Mind maps enable visual-spatial representation of both concrete and abstract elements of personal preparedness planning. The software features an intuitive interface, collapsible windows and hyperlinks as well as embedded notes and collaborative sharing. Each section of a personal preparedness plan developed in this way, can be examined in further detail and in turn should be continually updated and revised.

Conclusion: Mind mapping offers a feasible alternative to traditional modes of information management for disaster preparedness and personal preparedness planning.

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Countdown to the Future - The Biggest Threat: Man-Made or Nature-Source Disasters?

Akif M. Donmez

Disaster Medicine Doctorate Programme, Bezmialem Vakif University Institution of Health Sciences, ISTANBUL/Turkey

Study/Objective: These days, the human world copes with global (warming, agricultural drought, armament, displacements, terrorism, etc.) issues. Even if any issue is a regional one, it fastly becomes a global concern and affects the world over.

When a problem occurs, not only does it affects the poor, the indigents, but also the wealthiest. Unfortunately, wars cause more deaths, casualties, and orphan populations than earthquakes and hurricanes. In this day and age, on one hand, advanced technologies make life easier for humanity; on the other hand, it leads the human world vulnerable to man-made disasters never-before-seen. The study aims to define the risks for the future and determine solutions for mankind.

Background: An outlook to the world panorama shouts the fact: deaths, victims, casualties, orphans, and narcotic addicts are due to ongoing wars, terrors, conflicts, forcibly displacements, individual and military armaments, drug trafficking, and abortions worldwide. Even worse, the future is pregnant to unprecedented events, and threats maybe caused by state and non-state terror groups and malevolents under favor of easy access to dangerous materials, machines, and applications, and fast transportation of hazardous materials. Also, any country or a group in an army can easily cause big regional or global chaos by using mass destruction weapons.

Methods: We make conferences about disarmament and non-proliferation concerns, prepare statistics, frameworks, and projects to reduce poverty and world hunger; issue prospects for urbanization and prepare plans for refugees; to maintain international peace and security, promote sustainable development, protect human rights, uphold international laws, and deliver humanitarian aid.

Results: We settle shelters for refugees and serve aid programs for the hungry; but is it enough and sufficient for today and future conditions? The problems are growing day by day.

Conclusion: Every human being has the the right to live in security, peace, and dignity, and with security of tenure.

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Understanding the Impact of Visual Imagery in Emergency Warning Messages

Vivienne C. Tippett¹, Stacey Pizzino², S. Greer¹, D. Dootson¹, A. Mehta¹

1. Clinical Science, QUT, Brisbane/QLD/Australia
2. Clinical Science, QUT, Brisbane/ACT/Australia

Study/Objective: This study examines how the provision of emergency messaging during flood events is perceived by members of the community; whether it correctly prompts the correct risk assessment; and whether messages prompt the desired behavior. Experimental conditions are applied to determine the correlation between an individual's innate risk tolerance and the perceived risk they associate with a series of flood-related image prompts.

Background: Australia experiences a broad range of natural hazard events annually, which lead to injury, loss of life, and long-term negative impacts on individuals and communities. Estimates of the costs associated with these events have reached \$9 billion a year (Deloitte, 2016). Some impacts can be mitigated by optimising emergency instructions during the event (Burns and Slovik, 2012). Our previous work has indicated that the addition of images and maps in warnings improves the