



## National Science and Technology Council

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL PRESS RELEASE** *Reducing Disaster Vulnerability Through Science and Technology*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – A report identifying critical opportunities to reduce future loss of life and property as a result of disaster was released by the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction (SDR) of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, a committee of the National Science and Technology Council. The interim report entitled “Reducing Disaster Vulnerability Through Science and Technology” reviews current U.S. government efforts to increase the nation’s disaster resiliency. The SDR report is invaluable for understanding the contribution of federal science and technology investment to risk reduction for both natural and technological hazards.

“This Administration gives high priority to reducing losses from disasters, which requires a coordinated, interagency approach,” said Dr. John H. Marburger III, Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy. “This report informs and educates both policymakers and disaster managers, while identifying important gaps and opportunities.”

“Major improvements in disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery are possible through strategic investment in science and technology,” said Helen Wood (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), SDR Chair. “This report highlights success stories of collaborative programs that have made a real difference in America’s disaster resilience.”

The report also identifies six areas that require continued federal attention in order to reduce disaster losses in America:

- Leverage existing knowledge of natural and technological hazards to address terrorism events;
- Improve hazard information data collection and prediction capability;
- Ensure the development and widespread use of improved hazard and risk assessment models and their incorporation into decision support tools and systems;
- Speed the transition from hazard research to hazard management application;
- Increase mitigation activities and incentives; and
- Expand risk communication capabilities, especially public warning systems and techniques.

The report discusses an upcoming SDR effort to establish a coordinated, strategic, national framework for science and technology research and application development for disaster risk

reduction. A copy of *Reducing Disaster Vulnerability Through Science and Technology* is available on the Subcommittee's web site, <http://www.sdr.gov>.

#### *About the National Science and Technology Council*

The NSTC was established by Executive Order on November 23, 1993. This Cabinet-level council is the principle means for the President to coordinate science and technology across the federal government. The President chairs the NSTC, and membership consists of the Vice President, the Director of OSTP, Cabinet secretaries, agency heads with significant science and technology responsibilities, and other White House officials.

#### *About The Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction*

The SDR is a subcommittee of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (CENR) under the National Science and Technology Council. Chartered in 1988, the SDR is charged with facilitating and promoting disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. The SDR addresses all types of natural and technological hazards, whether domestic or foreign in origin. To accomplish this mission, the SDR provides a forum for government leaders to leverage expertise, inform policy makers, promote technology applications, coordinate various activities, and promote excellence in research.

#### *Agency-Designated Members of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction*

Centers for Disease Control — Dr. Josephine Malilay, 404-498-1359

Department of Defense/C3I — Dr. Earnest Paylor, 703-601-2439

Department of Housing and Urban Development — Mr. John Kennedy, 202-708-2203

Department of State — Dr. Fernando Echavarria, 202-663-2395 and

Mr. Larry Roeder, 202-647-5070

Environmental Protection Agency — Dr. Peter Jutro, 202-564-3331

Federal Emergency Management Agency — Ms. Margaret Lawless, 202-646-3027

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission — Mr. Dan Mahoney, 202-502-6743

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