Early disaster recovery: a guide for communities

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Abstract
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Keywords
Canterbury earthquakes; disaster recovery; community development; community participation; urban resilience; social capital; Social Psychology

Fields of Research
1103 Clinical Sciences; 1702 Cognitive Science

Date
2011

Type
Journal Article

Collections
Department of Tourism, Sport and Society [523]
Early Disaster Recovery: A Guide for Communities

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Abstract
On September 4th 2010 and February 22nd 2011 the Canterbury region of New Zealand was shaken by two massive earthquakes. This paper is not only about the relief and emergency management literature and informed by work on community participation and social capital in the building of resilient cities. Work in this area indicates a need to recognize both the formal and informal responses to the earthqakes as an integral part of the recovery process. The range of factors that facilitate or undermine community recovery is too broad to be covered in this paper. This paper argues that the assumption that recovery agencies and officials are both willing and able to engage communities in their work is unrealistic. Case studies of three community groups - CeresMFTI, CeresMFTI, CeresMFTI - discuss some of the difficulties associated with becoming a community during the disaster recovery phase. Based on our own experiences and research, combined with data from approximately 50 in-depth interviews with Canterbury residents and representatives from community groups, the Canterbury City Council, the Earthquake Commission and on the papers' online, some practical strategies emerging communities may use in the early disaster recovery phase that then strengthen their ability to participate in the recovery process.

Keywords: community development; community participation; urban resilience; social capital

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Early disaster recovery: a guide for communities, generative poetics, including limited composes non-standard approach.

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