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Global Health Disaster Preparedness and Response
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Three Perspectives on Preparedness

One of the most interesting aspects of the community's response to a disaster is that it is happening to untrained people. Unlike the experts in the public and private sector, the people at ground zero of the disaster may have little to no training or preparedness at all. In fact the public may depend on someone with experience to step up and take control of their response and evacuation. Training for the public can be simple and basic things, like learning the layout of the buildings that they live and work in. Also, general first aid courses can be a good way to prepare for a disaster because the people that you see everyday may have to become first responders if something happens. "Through universal training and education of the citizenry, the U.S. has the opportunity to increase overall disaster resiliency and community outcomes following large-scale disasters" (Harris et al., 2018).

The way that the business side of emergency preparedness deals with disasters is by making sure the supply chain is not disrupted. While they are obviously concerned with the safety of their employees and customers, they are more focused on the operations of the business being continuing as normal. By being focused mainly on getting the regional stores the supplies they need, they don't need to coordinate with many traditional emergency management stakeholders like hospitals or first responders. The thing that makes the preparedness efforts of the government and business similar is that they are both done by experts. Carmela and Thomas both have extensive knowledge and first hand experience dealing with disasters and spend their time tracking weather patterns and preparing for worst case scenarios.

The government's role in emergency management is much more of the traditional school of thinking: experts preparing for disasters, first responders helping, and the government then coordinating relief efforts. The government is focused much more holistically on the problem, they care about both the public's well being and the disruption to the economy. They work with the public, business community and other important stakeholders. In San Francisco they test an emergency alert system every week to train the public to be ready for a disaster when it comes. Unlike the business side, which has much less control over mitigation, the government prioritizes all aspects of emergency management.

Works Cited

Harris, C., McCarthy, K., Liu, E., Klein, K., Swinton, R., Prins, P., & Waltz, T. (2018). Expanding understanding of response roles: An examination of immediate and first responders in the United States. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 15(3), 534. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph15030534>