



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Recovery and Reconstruction Process after Two Fire Disasters: Natural versus Technological

Ali Asgary, York University

Email: asgary@yorku.ca

Ali Ihsan Ozdemir, Abdullah Gul University

Email: ali.ozdemir@agu.edu.tr

Charmaine Gentles, York University

Email: cgentles98@gmail.com

Abstract

Introduction/Objectives:

Most recovery and reconstruction studies focus either on single disasters and their recovery and reconstruction issues or comparative studies of post disaster reconstruction in different communities, countries, or functions such as housing, financing etc. Little comparative studies have been done to examine the recovery and reconstruction processes in communities impacted by different types of disasters particularly natural versus technological disasters. The main objective of this study is to examine the differences between post disaster reconstructions after two different disasters. We argue that the recovery and reconstruction process could be affected by type of disasters.

Method and Context:

We have examined the recovery and reconstruction process after two major recent disasters in Canada namely the May 2011 wildfire in Slave Lake that destroyed almost one third of the town and the July 2013 train derailment and subsequent fire that destroyed the downtown of Lac Megantic in Quebec. We compare the post disaster recovery and reconstruction policies, plans, stakeholders, and outcomes in both cases by analysing the existing official documents and reports.

Results and Conclusions:

Our preliminary results show that post disaster recovery and reconstruction after a major technological disasters is more complicated, political, challenging, and lengthy compared to the reconstruction process after a major disaster caused by natural hazard.

Keywords: post disaster reconstruction, Calgary flood, Slave Lack forest fire, Lac Megantic train disaster

Abstract Reference Number: 49
