

Integrating Disaster Risk Management with Emergency Services and Defence to Reduce Avoidable Disaster Deaths

10th December 2021

About the Symposium

When your house is on fire, who do you call?

When your house is flooded or about to flood, who do you call?

When you need help to evacuate your house, who do you call?

When a national government is overwhelmed with an emergency, who do they call?

Answers to all these questions are the first responders (aka category 1 responders).

First responders include the affected community, emergency services, defence – amongst others (Key-Brown, 2017).

The one-day symposium entitled 'Integrating Disaster Risk Management with Emergency Services and Defence to Reduce Avoidable Disaster Deaths' will bring together the emergency services (fire, sea and coast, military, defence (air, navy, surface, army, military contractors and policy influences from the MoD, MoDA, Ministry and Development) entities to understand the role that the first responders play in reducing avoidable disaster deaths and the number of affected people by disasters in the Caribbean region.

Avoidable deaths are those deaths that can be avoided through preventable actions, avoidable or nearly inevitable actions, and disaster risk governance (Cook, 2019; Key-Brown, 2018; Key-Brown et al., forthcoming). Avoiding disaster deaths and the number of people affected by disasters is currently part of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (that includes the 2030 United Target: 'substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030' (Target A), and 'substantially reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030' (Target B).

