



False Alarms, warnings, and mobile home communities: Survey and focus group results

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A variety of methodologies and scholarly perspectives have been applied to improving community and individual resilience to tornadoes. Focus on better forecasting (in terms of lead time, accuracy, and frequency of identification), educational awareness of residents, and considerations of buildings and associated codes have all been points of study. In spite of these efforts, some regions like the Southeastern US seem to still disproportionately suffer from the consequences of tornadoes. This work supplements those efforts by investigating human resilience of at-risk communities.

Residents of mobile, manufactured, and weak-framed homes (MHR) present a unique challenge when it comes to fostering tornado resilience. Recently MHR have been identified as disproportionately affected by the consequences of severe weather. Competing lines of thought have speculated whether the current state of MHR is a function of the construction of these homes (MH) and the mechanisms with which they are secured, or if individuals who live in MH have other social confounds that complicate their ability to receive and act upon information that might help mitigate negative tornadic outcomes.

We assessed MHR vulnerability and capacities to address tornado warnings by using survey results and focus groups throughout the Southeast U.S. to improve scientific understanding of how people living in MH interact with tornado situations given their physical and social vulnerability. This work aligns with efforts conducted by Demuth (2018) evaluating the impact of previous human experiences with weather hazards. Additionally, this work intersects with convective-scale weather observation and modeling efforts at NCAR by investigating nighttime warning behavior and attention from at risk residents and the structural integrity of various types of structures in tornado prone areas.

Thursday, 18 April 2019, 3:30 p.m.

Refreshments 3:15 PM

NCAR-Foothills Laboratory, 3450 Mitchell Lane, FL2-1022, Large Auditorium

This seminar will be webcast live at:
<http://ucarconnect.ucar.edu/live>

Recorded seminar link can be viewed here:
<https://www.mmm.ucar.edu/events/seminars>