Evidence-based Disaster and Emergency Management: A shift in paradigm, philosophy and culture
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Background
Many disaster and emergency management (DEM) related assumptions originate from conventional practices and isolated experiences inconsistent with empirical disaster research. This causes suboptimal response and often expensive "lessons learned" through loss of lives, property and resources. As modern-day disasters are increasingly multifaceted and diverse with more adverse implications, a new theoretical framework is needed.

Objectives
This project seeks to develop an evidence-based framework with the aim of cultivating a shift in DEM philosophy away from a reliance on isolated personal experiences towards a comprehensive, systematic, analytical approach to implement the best, currently available information.

Methods
1. Literature Review
2. Semi-structured interviews of DEM experts

Preliminary Results
There are several paradigms currently being utilized in the field of DEM, the most popular being Comprehensive Emergency Management (i.e. 4 pillars of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery). However, each has their limitations (i.e. silos between disaster phases, presumptions restricting adaptability during disaster, not inclusive of social, cultural, political variables, etc.). As such, I propose an evidence-based DEM decision-making model and the building block paradigm.