



5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on  
Information Systems for  
Crisis Response and Management

Washington, DC, USA  
May 4-7, 2008  
<http://www.iscram.org>

## CALL FOR PAPERS

FOR A SPECIAL SESSION ON

### *Technology Showcase – Communication Systems and Technologies for Crisis and Disaster response*

Session ID: TECH-02

#### **Motivation**

We aim to demonstrate examples from recent practical applications of crisis response technologies in an attempt to narrow the existing gap between research and its implementation. We propose a technology showcase session where researchers and companies demonstrate functional information/communications technology systems they have developed. These systems would demonstrate how information systems or communications technology can play a role in mitigating, preparing for, responding to or recovering from disasters. Rather than discuss theoretical research results, we focus on the system deployments, how they functioned in a real-life situation (an actual disaster or field trial), and how systems developers have adapted to user needs based on user feedback. We envision a demonstration format rather than a series of presentations to facilitate open discussion and interaction between users and systems developers.

#### **Research Area**

Coordinating the response activities in the aftermath of a medium or large scale disaster is extremely challenging. Recent application of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) offers a ray of hope in this direction. However, today's solutions in this direction are insufficient to handle real crises situations. In addition, there exist dependencies on several systems that are required for disaster response. For example, the information system that collects and manages resources onsite at ground zero depends on the availability of a reliable communication network which must be designed and deployed on the fly. In addition, the communication between first responder groups within an organization and between multiple organizations requires new research, devices and technological solutions. Another angle to disaster response is to make existing network reliable enough to handle crises situations.

## Topics

The following categories of technology solutions are of particular interest to this session: Topics of interest include but not limited to the following:

- Technological solutions that can make today's civilian communication networks survive disasters
- New network forms that can be quickly deployed and easily reconfigured onsite at ground zero (for example, Wireless Mesh, ad hoc, and WiMAX systems)
- Information collection, maintenance, and resource management solutions that can facilitate coordination of large number of response elements at incident command center
- Community alert mechanisms that can quickly disseminate crucial information about impending crises
- Network anomaly detection and incident prediction schemes for predicting impending crises from network traffic
- Network aided robotic solutions for surveying and acting on inaccessible areas of a disaster affected area.

Submissions from other areas of interest within the crises and disaster response research are also welcome to this session.

### Type of contribution:

- **Practitioner Session:** we invite practitioners to present their practice or experiences in information systems development, use or needs. Prospective presenters submit a short practitioner paper or a Powerpoint presentation along with an abstract.

### Important Notice:

- All submissions must be formatted according to the ISCRAM 2008 formatting guidelines. Templates and instructions are published on [www.iscram.org](http://www.iscram.org).
- All submissions must be submitted through the ISCRAM 2008 conference paper submission web page at [www.conftool.com/iscram2008](http://www.conftool.com/iscram2008). Instructions for the ConfTool system can be found on [www.iscram.org](http://www.iscram.org).
- All papers and presentations will go through a double-blind review process, leading to a decision of (conditional) acceptance or rejection.
- Accepted papers will be included in the ISCRAM 2008 program and published in the official proceedings if and only if
  - (1) the paper is formatted according to the instructions,
  - (2) the authors sign the copyright transfer form and
  - (3) one of the authors registers for the conference and pays the registration fee before the cut-off date for early registration.
- Authors who have multiple papers accepted can only register for and present one paper at the conference; co-authors need to register separately.

### Session Chairs:



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### Important ISCRAM 2008 Dates:

- December 21, 2007: Paper submission deadline
- February 10, 2008: Notification of (conditional) acceptance
- February 22, 2008: Early registration deadline
- March 1, 2008: Final camera-ready paper submission deadline
- May 4-7, 2008: ISCRAM 2008

### About ISCRAM:

The ISCRAM Community is a worldwide community of researchers, scholars, teachers, students, practitioners and policy makers interested or actively involved in the subject of Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management. At its annual international conference alternating between the US and Europe, the ISCRAM Community gathers to present and discuss the latest research and developments in this growing area during an interactive and stimulating 3 day program. The ISCRAM

Community also organizes an International Summer School for PhD students and ISCRAM-CHINA, an annual conference for ISCRAM research in China. All information on ISCRAM can be found at <http://www.iscram.org>

ISCRAM 2008 will be held from 4-7 May at the George Washington University (GWU) located in Washington, DC, USA. The conference will be hosted by GWU's Institute for Crisis, Disaster, and Risk Management (ICDRM). All details on this conference will be made available via the ISCRAM website mentioned above.