

The Role of the Surveyor in Disaster Management What Is Disaster Management? Understanding Risks, from Prevention to Mitigation and Reconstruction

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SUMMARY

The UN and Copernicus, the European Earth observation program, announced on Monday June 19 that Europe is warming twice as fast as the rest of the planet.

And the consequences of this warming are already visible. In the summers of 2022 and 2023, heat waves combined with low precipitation led to major forest fires across Europe and the Mediterranean region.

Added to this already alarming climatic picture was the return of war to Europe with Russian aggression in Ukraine, which began on February 24, 2022.

Last but not least, Europe remains a territory with a high seismic risk, as evidenced by the recent earthquakes in Croatia (2021) and Turkey (2022).

All specialists agree that the frequency and scale of these disasters will increase over the coming decades, due to climate change and the expected demographic explosion, particularly in those regions of the world most exposed to natural hazards.

While we cannot entirely avoid some of these disasters, we can prepare for them and cope with them.

Prevention efforts and coordinated responses to disasters save lives and reduce their impact on communities. Disaster management professionals, including surveyors, play a crucial role in preventing suffering, protecting people's livelihoods and helping communities

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recover.

What is disaster management? How land professionals such as surveyors contribute to disaster management - before, during and after disasters occur?

To answer these questions, the Ordre des géomètres-experts, in collaboration with the Council of European Geodetic Surveyors organised in Paris on November 9, 2023 the IXth European Surveyor's Conference dedicated to this thematic.

Disaster management requires a systemic approach to responsibilities and involves the strategic organization of tools, policies and resources to reduce the damage caused.

This approach was outlined and illustrated by several examples of know-how and best practice from European surveyors. The conclusions and findings of the conference have been published in the form of the 'Paris Declaration' which is the subject of this communication.

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