

# Increasing Collaboration in Disasters Through Scenario-Based Planning

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Sunday, July 13, 2:00 to 3:15 p.m. MDT



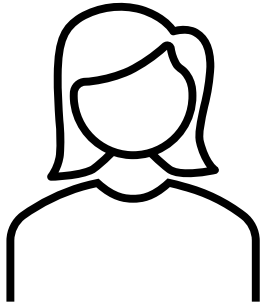
# In our time together today, we will do 3 things

1. Introduce who we are and why we are here
2. Presentation of approach
3. Provide an example group exercise

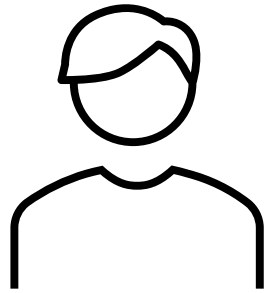


# Who we are and why we are here

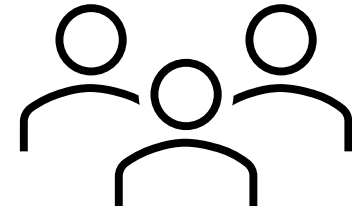
# Different people united for a common purpose



Hi, I'm Jessica.



Hi, I'm Chris.



And you?  
Student?  
Researcher?  
Practitioner?

# Critical challenges inspired us to collaborate on this session

Cascading disasters and polycrisis, increasingly severe impacts, and scarce resources

Published hazards and disaster research often reflects a lack of understanding of the practice or policy context (the dabbler phenomenon)

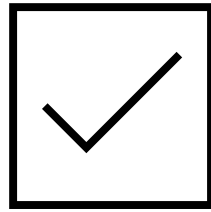
Published hazards and disaster research often is disconnected from prior research on the same or related topics

Actions to overcome practitioner-researcher divides are still disincentivized or difficult in researcher community

Often practice and policy do not reflect incorporation of existing research, technologies and tools for various reasons

Researchers often want to help and can add value

# We will share scenario based-sessions as a means of how researchers\* can help address these challenges



For over 50 years, technical professionals have used exercises



The International Science Reserve and RAND have a history of adapting these approaches

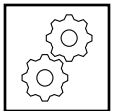
# Scenario-based sessions may be more doable than other options



Low to no cost



Little time required to set up or implement



Easily replicable



Tailorable to the local context

# There are at least 5 potential outcomes for researchers, scholars and the community

1

Relationships,  
relationships,  
relationships

2

Improve  
researcher  
understanding  
of local  
context and  
practitioner  
and  
community  
challenges

3

Encourage  
cross-  
disciplinary  
collaboration  
among  
researchers

4

Improve  
practitioner  
and  
community  
awareness of  
existing  
research,  
tools and  
technologies

5

Yield  
information  
that may  
inform  
researcher,  
practitioner,  
and  
community  
planning

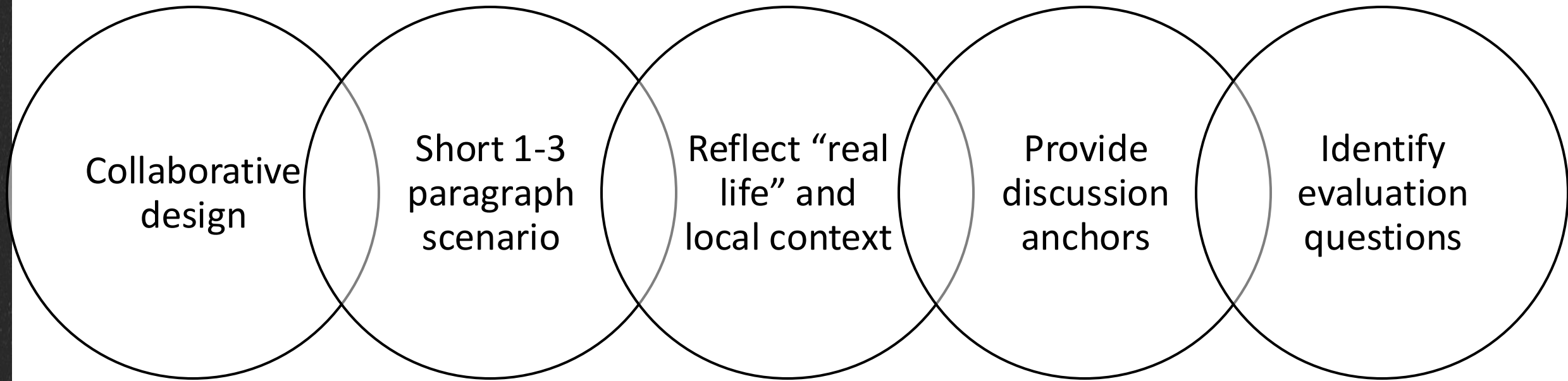


# The Approach: A brief introduction

# **We recommend designing a session with the ends in mind**

- Partner to develop outcomes sought
- Partner to invite a cross section of local practitioners, community, and researchers to a 2- to 3-hour session
- Partner to identify facilitators and (possibly) notetakers

# Key components that will likely support outcome achievement include...



# There are no hard and fast requirements for the session itself, but generally...

- The usual introduction material
- Present the scenario and questions at same time to entire audience
- Small, mixed group discussions over the course of an hour
- Have notetakers with each group or tools for groups to capture responses to questions
- Have facilitators to circle and listen during the exercise, listening for themes across groups, differences across groups, implications of group discussions individually/combined for researcher support in disasters
- Give folks a break
- Facilitate large group discussion and evaluation and identify takeaways and next steps over the course of an hour

# An example

# Here's an example scenario: The Crown Fire

In the Northwestern United States, a crown fire is moving rapidly through remote, mountainous terrain not easily accessed by fire responders. The fire is now approaching the border of Canada.

The fire's fuels include high elevation lodgepole pine and mixed conifer forests. The weather has been hot with high temperatures, low humidity, and windy conditions. There are red flag warnings with embers blowing more than 5 miles from the active fire front.

The fire is active during the day and at night and is difficult, if not impossible, to suppress, and expected to be of long duration (30-60 days).



# **Crown Fire discussion questions, responded to from the perspective of each stakeholder group represented**

- How would you be wanting to help? What would you be doing to try?
- What is at risk? Who is most impacted? What concerns you most about the scenario?
- What tasks must be completed?
- What data, information, tools, and technologies are needed and already exist that could help?
- Who are key players in response & recovery?
- What are key needs the research community could support addressing?
- What is important for other stakeholders to know about working with you in this scenario?

# Large group discussion to glean takeaways, evaluation and action items

- [Begin with facilitator comments and questions]
- What did you learn about other stakeholder groups that you did not know before?
- Were any assumptions you had coming into the discussion challenged during it?
- What more information would you would need to know had the scenario been real? What did you learn about where you would get that information?
- What have you learned about opportunities for research support during/after disasters?
- Going forward, what kind of mechanisms would be useful to facilitate researcher support to practice during/after disasters? Support to the community?
- What are your action items following this experience?



# Examples of key takeaways for researchers

- Familiarize themselves with local context as much as possible before engaging with practitioners regarding response and recovery support
- Do their homework regarding existing research, technology and tools that scholars have already produced and that practitioners may already be using.
- Consider whether the contribution of an individual discipline or their multi- or transdisciplinary effort is needed.
- Ideally have relationships in place with practitioners or leverage boundary spanners and respect the timing and methods of communication that work best for them.

# Let's have you discuss the Crown Fire example briefly

In the Northwestern United States, a crown fire is moving rapidly through remote, mountainous terrain not easily accessed by fire responders. The fire is now approaching the border of Canada.

The fire's fuels include high elevation lodgepole pine and mixed conifer forests. The weather has been hot with high temperatures, low humidity, and windy conditions. There are red flag warnings with embers blowing more than 5 miles from the active fire front.

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# Exercise

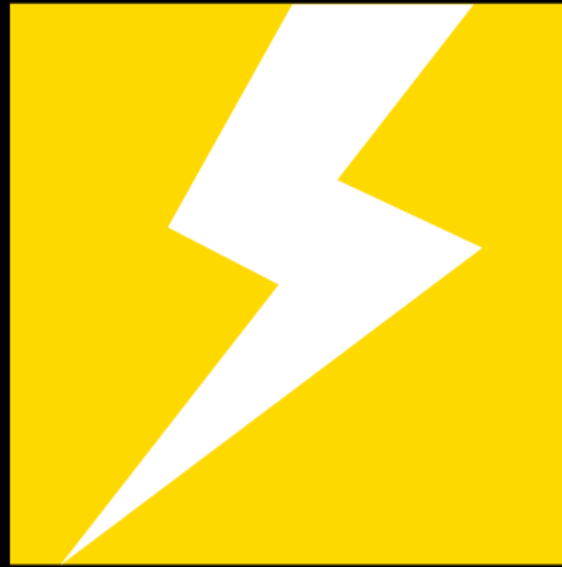
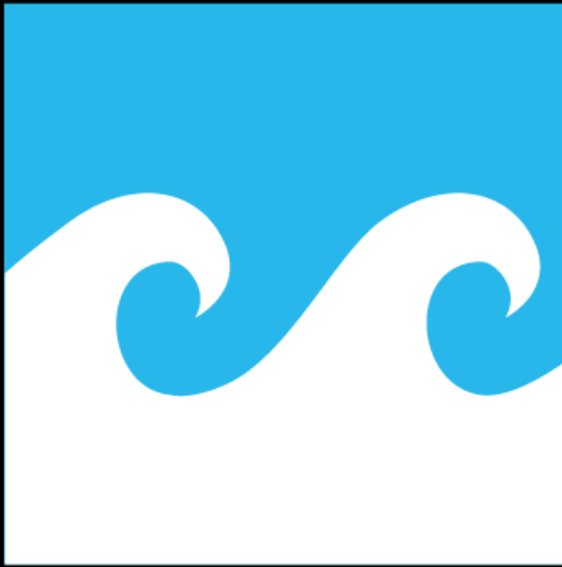
In groups, draw on your own areas of expertise and interest to consider:

- What is at risk? Who is most impacted? What concerns you most about the scenario?
- What data, information, tools, and technologies are needed and already exist that could help?
- What are key needs the research community could support addressing?

# **We hope you leave today with a few takeaways of your own!**

- Scenario based sessions can be a meaningful way of bridging the so-called research-practice divide that is more doable than other recommended approaches
- Scenario based sessions can help researchers maximize their contributions
- Scenario based sessions can help practitioners consider how they might tap into their very own, local think tank/innovation lab to address disaster issues

**We're here to partner: Find us on Whova!!!**



# 50<sup>th</sup> Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop

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July 13-16, 2025

