


# Cities at Risk: Planning for and Recovering from Natural Disasters (Global Urban Studies)

*By Pierre Filion, Gary Sands*

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As levels of urbanization increase around the world, the growing concentrations of population and economic activity increases vulnerability to natural disasters. Interdependencies among urban populations mean that damage to the built environment, including water, sewer and energy infrastructure, can affect millions. Even if there is no change in the rate of occurrence of natural disasters (an unlikely prospect in the face of ongoing climate change) the potential for human and economic loss will continue to increase, along with the time required to recover. How do cities prepare for and recover from natural disasters? In this book, the authors provide a broad overview of the issues related to the impacts of disasters on cities around the world, from assessing risks to accounting for damages. The comparative approach across different types of disasters in a range of urban locations is useful in identifying opportunities for policy transfer. While there is no ’one size fits all’ solution to hazard mitigation, valuable lessons can be learned from the experiences of others. The chapters emphasize different modes for assessing hazard risk, as well as strategies for increasing the resiliency of vulnerable populations.

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Review
'Cities at Risk distils critical lessons from responses to disasters in developed and developing countries, in recent years and in historic circumstances. Its authors offer keen insights into the factors that increase vulnerability and undermine effective action. Moreover, they expose the political economy within which state agents plan to reduce risk and manage disaster response. An impressive contribution!' Jill L. Grant, Dalhousie University, Canada 'Disaster has become an increasingly recurrent aspect of everyday life. In this important collection Filion, Sands and Skidmore show why this is so, and explain the emergence of various forms of state and civil society responses over recent years. Their analysis of diverse case studies guides the creation of resilient modes of urban planning and governance, and is essential reading.' Ian Skelton, University of Manitoba, Canada

About the Author
Pierre Filion is Professor of Urban Planning at the University of Waterloo in Ontario Canada. Gary Sands is Professor Emeritus of Urban Planning at Wayne State University in Detroit. Mark Skidmore is Professor of Economics at Michigan State University where he holds the Morris Chair in State and Local Government Finance.

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