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Catastrophe, Communications and the Future of Cities

by [anthony](#)

American cities face an increasing number of catastrophic threats over the next 100 years. Terrorist groups are more likely to gain access to weapons of mass destruction that can be employed against urban centers. Unrestricted development in coastal and fault zones amplifies the risk of widespread destruction from hurricanes, earthquakes, and rising sea levels. Finally, an increasingly complex and inter-dependent network of urban infrastructure systems will create highly vulnerable targets where critical components interconnect.

Reliable communications systems are the lifeblood of effective emergency response and disaster management. Current efforts at the federal, state, and local level are making rapid progress in addressing critical issues such as network inter-operability and public alert systems. However, cities face unique challenges in the 21st century which have not been adequately addressed by current research.

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