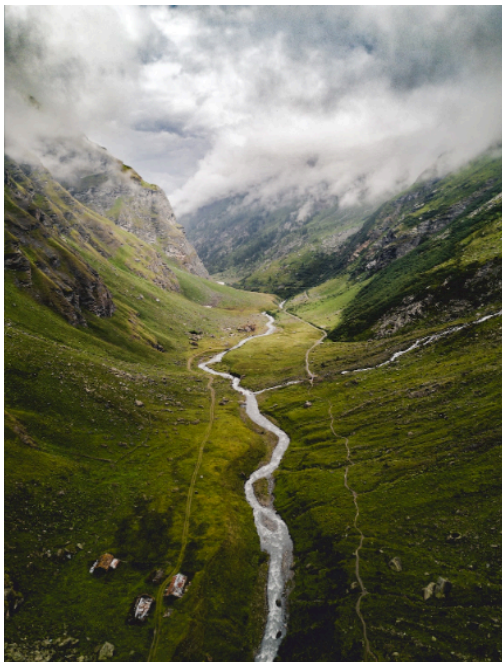


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Dear PHEER Network,

Welcome to the **Winter 2025** edition of the PHEER Network newsletter, your source for updates, events, and stories from the community of public health disaster researchers.



Public Health Extreme Events Research (PHEER)

is a public health researcher-led network that mobilizes rapidly, informs evolving disaster research agendas and funding decisions, and advances the field of public health disaster science.

PHEER is part of the broader [CONVERGE network](#), which strengthens relationships between disciplinary communities and advances the scientific rigor and ethical conduct of hazards and disaster research.

In This Issue:

I. Network Updates

- II. Community Spotlight
- III. Featured Publication
- IV. Upcoming Events
- V. Funding Announcements
- VI. Hiring & Fellowship Opportunities

Network Updates

Southern California Wildfires Mobilization

As the 2025 Los Angeles area wildfires unfolded, the PHEER directors and Steering Committee closely monitored the evolving public health research needs. Through collaborative discussions with local researchers, the PHEER leads identified a need for coordination among researchers collecting data on environmental exposures within the affected area. In response, PHEER developed an [ArcGIS Online web application](#) to provide a “one stop shop” where the public health research and practice community can access publicly available exposure data, including information about contaminated soil, air, water, or debris. PHEER is partnering with the [NHERI RAPID facility](#) at the University of Washington, an NSF and NIH-funded resource for specialized environmental measurement and mapping, as well as our DR2 colleagues at NIEHS.

If you are a researcher collecting any relevant exposure measures, and you would be willing to make your data available to the research community, please reach out to us [here](#).

Additionally, if you have ideas of existing data that would be helpful to include on the map, please fill out this [form](#).

Hurricane Mobilization

In early fall 2024, PHEER mobilized two task forces related to hurricanes Beryl, Helene, and Milton.

Task Force 1 Updates:

Charge: Explore how public health agencies are utilizing after-action reports to evaluate their responses to hurricanes in the 2024 season, including as it relates to decision-making related to considerations around concurrent disasters.

Progress: PHEER is conducting surveys and interviews with public health practitioners on their decision-making processes during concurrent disasters. A memo summarizing this work will be created in spring 2025.

Task Force 2 Updates:

Charge: Identify unique and innovative uses of Location-Based Data (LBD) for estimating the indirect effects of Hurricanes Beryl, Helene, and Milton on the health and well-being of the exposed population.

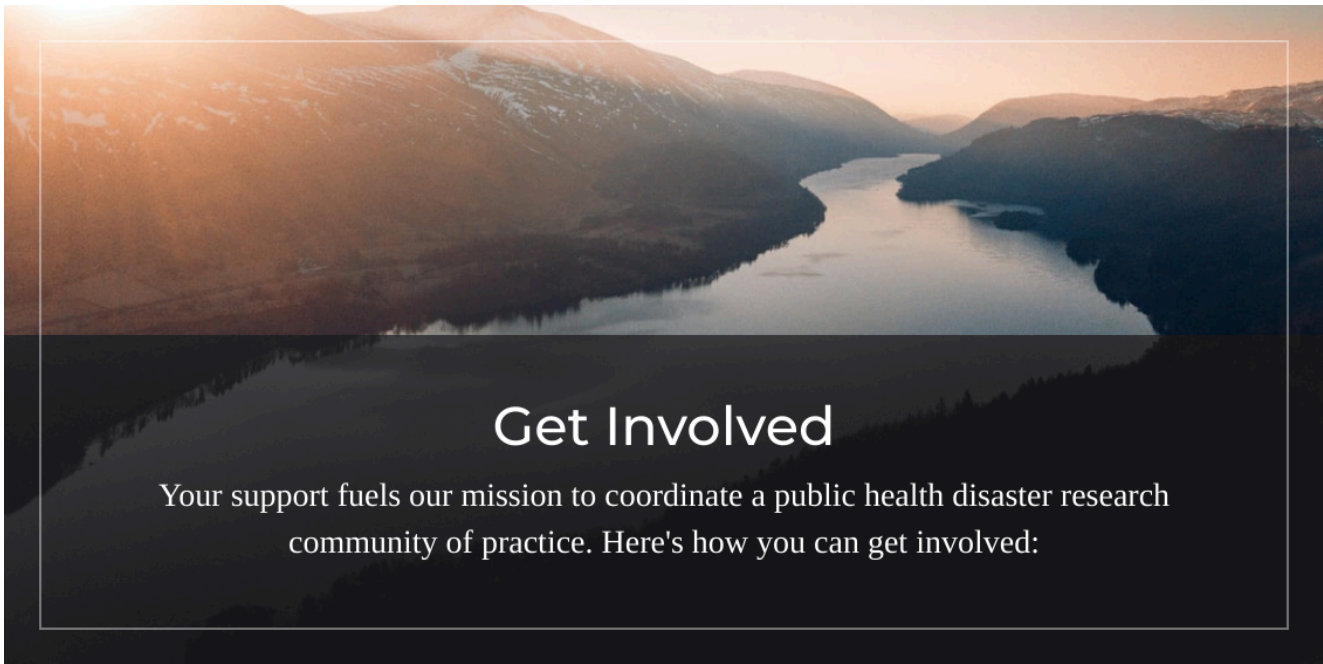
Progress: PHEER held a works-in-progress workshop in early December and heard from the rapid research awardees and the location-based data operations group on their mid-research findings. PHEER will be presenting on some of this work at the 2025 National Hurricane Conference in New Orleans on April 15, 2025.

*Collectively, PHEER is building a community of public health disaster researchers, practitioners, and agency partners. Our work has never been more important for the support of healthier, more resilient communities in the face of disasters.
Thank you for being a vital part of the PHEER Network.*

Help Us Grow

We are always eager to welcome new members. Please consider connecting your colleagues engaged in public health and disaster research to our network by directing them to the PHEER Membership Application.

[PHEER Membership Application](#)



Get Involved

Your support fuels our mission to coordinate a public health disaster research community of practice. Here's how you can get involved:

Keep Us Updated

Send us any recent publications or news features so that we can highlight your work to our community. Please mail updates to pheernetwork@gmail.com

Attend Events

Join us at our upcoming events and engage with fellow network members.

Join Us on Slack

Join the PHEER community on the #**pheer** thread within the [DesignSafe Slack channel](#). Members will first need to sign up for a Design Safe account (register [here](#)).

Community Spotlight

Would you like your work featured in our next newsletter? [Send us your updates!](#)



In this issue, we shine the spotlight on **Dr. Sangung Park, PhD, MS**, a postdoctoral associate in civil and coastal engineering at the University of Florida. Sangung has mainly utilized visits to places of interest data from mobile phone location data and population movement to find patterns and model post-disaster recovery dynamics (such as hurricanes, heatwaves, and wildfires). Sangung is skilled at analyzing the disaggregated and aggregated mobile phone location dataset using machine learning methods and conventional and state-of-the-art statistical models, including probabilistic programming, causal inference, and causal discovery methods. He recently received a **PHEER Rapid Research Award** to develop a dynamic social vulnerability index for public health.

Upcoming Events

Don't miss these exciting opportunities to connect, learn, and grow together!

*** indicate events at which PHEER will be presenting.

Nation at Risk: Preparedness and Response to Unconventional Health Threats Symposium- A National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health (NCDMPH) Symposium hosted by the Uniformed Services University in Bethesda, MD

Recent events, such as the New Year's Eve vehicular attack in New Orleans, as well as the Christmas Market attack in Magdeburg, Germany have highlighted the devastating impact of unconventional methods used to instigate mass casualty events. These types of events, whether deliberate and coordinated acts of terrorism or the singular actions of individuals, can cause severe injury and death to large numbers of people and have a devastating impact on the psyche of the Nation.

To address this pressing need, NCDMPH is convening a series of three international events to be hosted at the Uniformed Services University. The events will be led by senior leaders across the U.S. federal interagency in coordination with state and local partners, as well as leading minds in academia and industry. Events are designed to bring together thought leaders from around the world to share knowledge, foster collaboration, and improve preparedness and response to future threats.

- **March 17:** The first symposium will focus on lessons learned from recent events and will include speakers with direct experience managing the response to mass casualty events, including the attacks in New Orleans and Magdeburg.
- **April 11:** The second symposium will focus on examining the nature of future events and will include speakers from around the world with direct responsibility for protecting the health and safety of large populations surrounding a variety of high-profile mass gatherings.
- **May 13:** The third and final symposium will focus on needed changes to preparedness and response activities to meet the challenges of current and future health threats from unconventional methods.

Register for the symposium [here](#).

*****April 14 - 17: National Hurricane Conference** — New Orleans, LA

The primary goal of the National Hurricane Conference is to improve hurricane preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation in order to save lives and property in the United States and the tropical islands of the Caribbean and Pacific. In addition, the conference serves as a national forum for federal, state and local officials to exchange ideas and recommend new policies to improve Emergency Management.

Register [here](#).

*****April 29 - May 2: Preparedness Summit** — San Antonio, TX

The Preparedness Summit is the place for attendees to reenergize while gaining the knowledge, resources, and relationships necessary to prepare for and respond to public health emergencies. Join more than 2,500 attendees—who work in all levels of the government (federal, state, and local), emergency management, volunteer organizations, healthcare coalitions, and academia—to share best practices, build partnerships, advance your skillset, and take away innovative solutions and practical strategies to address the vulnerabilities in our country's health security system.

Register [here](#).

July 13 - 16: 50th Annual Natural Hazards Workshop — Broomfield, CO

Since 1975, the Natural Hazards Center has hosted the Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop in Colorado. Today the Workshop brings together federal, state, and local mitigation and emergency management officials and planning professionals; representatives of nonprofit, private sector, and humanitarian organizations; hazards and disaster researchers; and others dedicated to alleviating the impacts of disasters. The Workshop is widely known for helping people to make connections between research and practice and for building bridges across disciplines and organizations.

Sign up for workshop updates and to be alerted when registration opens [here](#).

July 16 - 17: Natural Hazards Center Researchers Meeting — Broomfield, CO

The 2025 Researchers Meeting will be held from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. MDT on Wednesday, July 16 and from 7:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. on Thursday, July 17 following the 50th Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop. The meeting schedule includes breakout sessions for paper presentations, roundtable

discussions, and networking events. This meeting is open to all members of the hazards and disaster community.

Registration for the Researchers Meeting can be added to the Natural Hazards Workshop registration or is available at a stand-alone rate. Once registration opens, both options will be available [here](#).

Featured Publication

Would you like your work featured in our next newsletter? [Send us your updates!](#)

Escaping Disaster: Understanding the Drivers and Disparities in Disaster Displacement in the United States

 *Kristina W. Kintziger, PhD, MPH, and*  *Sarah Elizabeth Scales, PhD, MPH*

We are highlighting a brief editorial by **Drs. Kristina Kintziger and Sarah Scales** examining how extreme weather events are increasingly displacing populations and exacerbating inequities. The authors highlight disparities in disaster displacement and note that vulnerable groups face greater risks of long-term displacement and adverse health outcomes. They also stress the need for improved disaster data collection, including near-real-time tracking of displacement, to better address inequities. Ultimately, Drs. Kintziger and Scales advocate for robust national surveillance and policy changes to mitigate the disproportionate impacts of disasters on marginalized communities. Read the full editorial [here](#).

Funding Announcements

Natural Hazards Center

The [University of Colorado Boulder Natural Hazards Center](#) will provide rapid awards to eligible grantees to get into the field quickly after an extreme climate event to work with communities to start health-related research. PI: [Lori Peek](#)

[Call for Quick Response Research Awards](#). Applications now being accepted. Available funds will support award amounts of \$10,000 to \$50,000 each. Applications for this new call will be accepted on a rolling basis until funds are exhausted.

University of Washington RAPID Facility

The [University of Washington Natural Hazards Reconnaissance \(RAPID\)](#) Facility will soon offer technical instrumentation, training, and resources to researchers collecting perishable exposure and health data.

For more information contact uwrapid@uw.edu.

Hiring Opportunities

Executive Director, Tracking California at the Public Health Institute

The Public Health Institute (PHI) is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting health, well-being, and quality of life for people throughout California, across the nation and around the world. PHI is seeking an outstanding and visionary leader in the field of environmental health and climate change to serve as Executive Director for its long-established program, Tracking California. Tracking California's [mission](#) is to mobilize data for public health action. Tracking California promotes justice and health equity by working with community groups, government agencies, researchers, and health advocates to shine a spotlight on environmental hazards, climate change and other factors that may be impacting community health.

Interested applicants should apply to [this posting](#) and submit a copy of their current CV/résumé and a cover letter that highlights relevant skills and experience.

Applications received by **March 1st, 2025** will be given preference in the selection process.

Advanced Graduate Student and Early Career Hazards and Disaster Researcher Fellowship

The University of Washington's [Center for Disaster Resilient Communities](#) is offering a hands-on training program in environmental and public health disaster research methods and skills for up to 25 advanced graduate students and early career hazards and disaster researchers from across the United States. This training program aims to provide a launchpad for scholars to build on and carry out their own disaster and hazards research projects as well as opportunities for interdisciplinary networking and mentorship.

This fellowship includes a weeklong in-person intensive at the University of Washington Seattle Campus from August 4-8, 2025 followed by a year of online monthly workshops all of which include research and professional support from program faculty.

Please visit the [program web page](#) for information on eligibility, application instructions, and timelines. Applications will be accepted until **March 31, 2025 (9PM PDT)** and will be reviewed based on the applicant's experience in public health and disasters, capacity to implement skills and knowledge from the fellowship, and commitment to reciprocal research practices. Priority acceptances will be released by May 1st, 2025. Need-based travel stipends are available.

Please share this information with anyone who would be interested and email jrandazz@uw.edu with any questions.

**Warm regards,
The PHEER Leadership Team**



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