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### **NON-COMPETITIVE DIVISION**

#### **Workshop on Disaster Research: Innovating for an Imagined Disaster Future.**

Drones, genetic testing, artificially intelligent information assistants, mobile phones, video chats, bionic limbs: These were once things of science fiction. Today, they are part of modern society. As the world emerges from a global pandemic that caused many deaths, froze international travel and the supply chain, and revealed political divides on the very nature of the threat, it is clear that planning for the disasters we know is insufficient.

While we continue to try to solve the problems of today, the disasters of the future lurk in the distance. Imagining those future disasters, and suggesting innovative paths forward, is paramount.

In 2024, the University of Delaware's Disaster Research Center celebrated its 60th Anniversary with a National Science Foundation-funded workshop on Disaster Research: Innovating for an Imagined Disaster Future. This event hosted collaborative discussions as well as featured presenters from a broad range of practice and disciplinary areas. The workshop sought to identify and catalyze the expansion of the field's development of new and pressing research directions. Themes from the workshop included the opportunities and threats of new and uniquely complex technologies, growing challenges in determining situational awareness - particularly across groups, uncertainty in a changing hazardscape, recalibrating the

influence of trust, and actualizing vulnerability reductions, among other themes. <https://www.drc.udel.edu/60thworkshop/>

**Presentation Theme:** Findings connected to the emergency management field.

**Collaborators, Advisor(s) and Department(s) that assisted with this research:** Tricia Wachtendorf, James Kendra.