

# Research to Practice: Drivers of Evacuation Behavior and Renter Vulnerability During Hurricanes

Daeun Kim



Competitive Division - Student

Poster Showcase  
#iaem25

## Significance and Objective

Disaster research has successfully identified evidence-based findings, but scholarly articles are often complex and difficult to access. DRCit! takes scientifically informed findings and converts it to written products that emergency managers, the media, and the public can easily access and consume. Here, we highlight two modules: Unique aspects of disaster vulnerability experienced by renters and factors impacting hurricane evacuation compliance.

## Methods

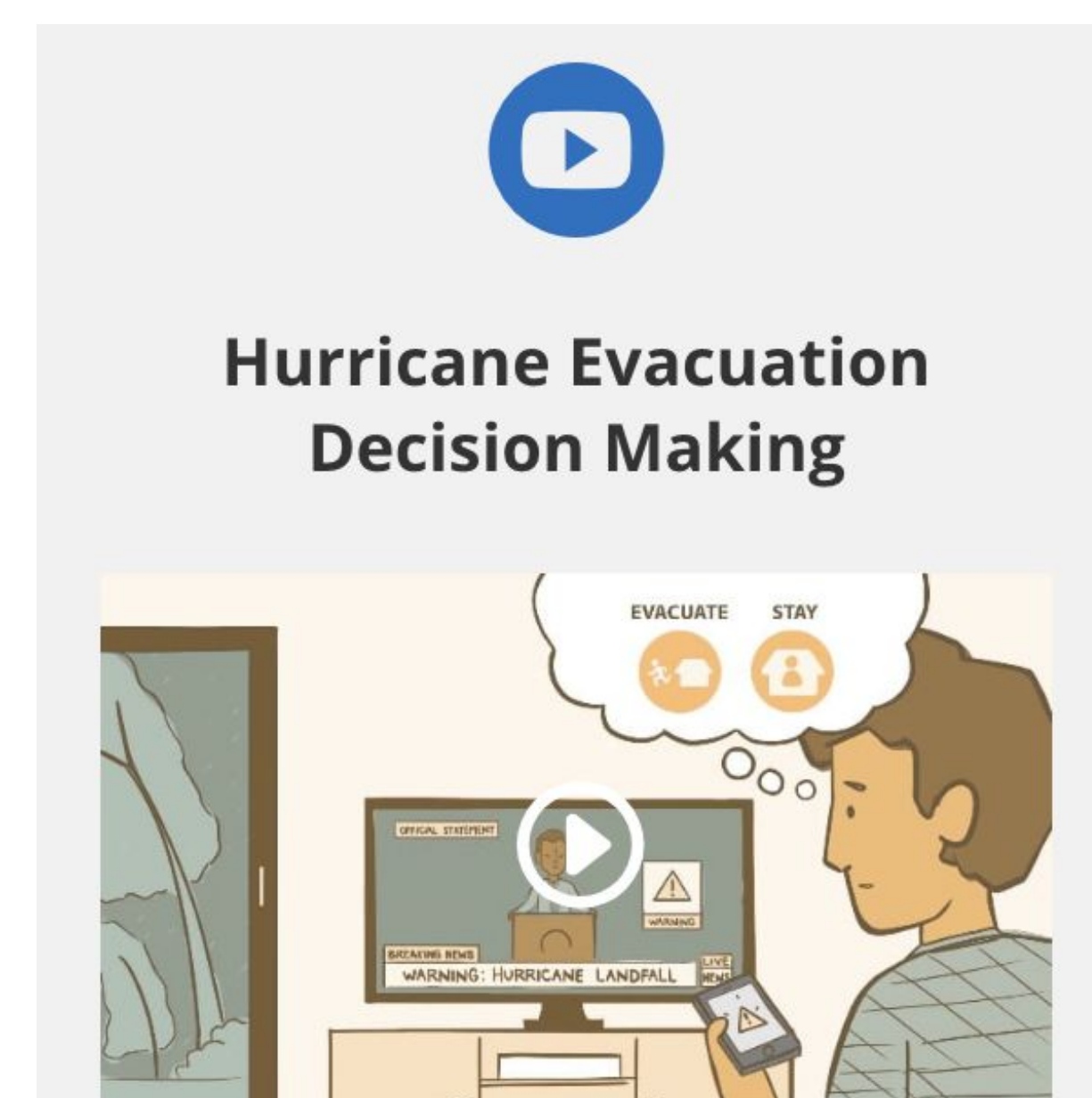
The process involves 1) identifying, in consultation with applied stakeholders, topics of interest to the emergency management community; 2) reviewing the literature; 3) consolidating the findings; 4) creating a theme summary, shorter topic summary, and bibliography for reference; 5) developing a script and design concept; 6) developing an easy-to-understand animated video for public dissemination.



## Major Findings

- Renters often face longer, deprioritized recovery
- Renters are dependent on landlords for mitigation action and are not eligible for the same kind of assistance post-disaster
- Affordable rental units often decline in availability
- Evacuation compliance is connected to demographic characteristics (perhaps related to risk perception and social roles), perception of hazard risk to their homes, resource availability, and concern about other aspects (e.g. loss of work), and influence of social/environmental cues (seeing neighbor activity or changing hazardous conditions)
- The timing, content, quality, and consistency of the warning messages are critical

## Watch the videos here!



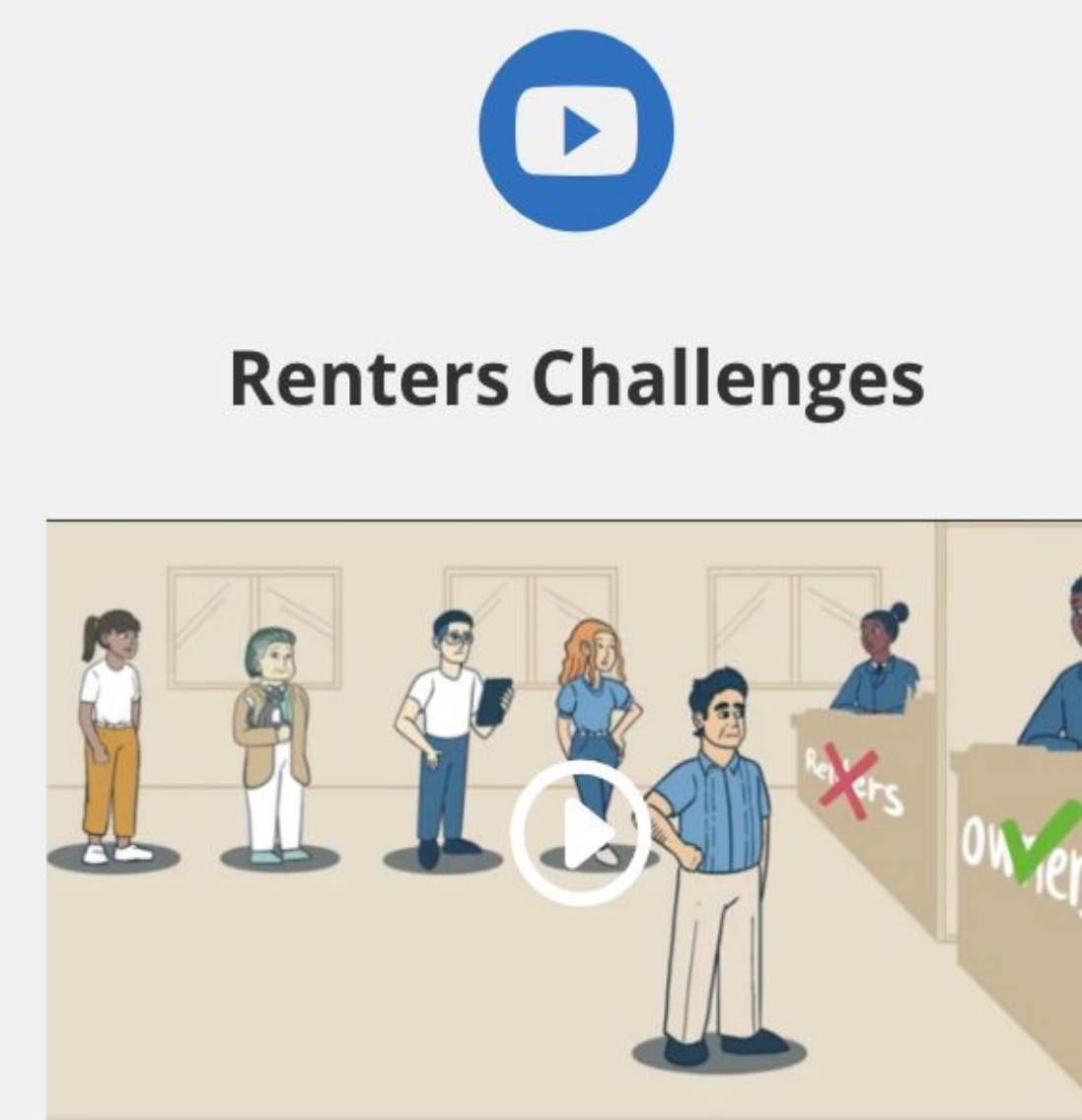
### Why people do or do not evacuate during a hurricane response

Understanding the reasons why individuals choose to evacuate or not is a complex issue that researchers have been studying for years. Our products highlight the most important and consistent findings within the hurricane evacuation decision making literature.

#### HURRICANE EVACUATION SUMMARIES

- Hurricane Evacuation Decision Making Topic Summary PDF
- Hurricane Evacuation Decision Making Theme Summary PDF
- Hurricane Evacuation Decision Making Bibliography PDF

### “DRC It!: Hurricane Evacuation Decision Making”



### Renters Challenges

### What unique challenges do renters face when disaster strikes?

Renters face unique disaster-related challenges—whether in preparing for and mitigating impacts, or in responding to and recovering from disasters. Our products highlight important findings from the literature.

#### RENTER CHALLENGES SUMMARIES

- Renter Challenges Topic Summary PDF (Coming Soon)
- Renter Challenges Theme Summary PDF (Coming Soon)
- Renter Challenges Bibliography PDF (Coming Soon)



### “DRC It!: What Challenges Do Renters Face When Disasters Strikes?”

## Directions for Future Practice and Tips

- Information should be given in multiple sources, channels, and languages
- Messages about hurricane threat should go out as soon as there is a credible threat
- Be specific: Tell people about the risk, what they should do to protect themselves, who to ask if they need help
- Consistently coordinate communication from official sources to avoid confusion.
- Build relationships and trust with communities before an event.
- Remind people to reach out to loved ones as well as those in their communities who might need help.



- Involve organizations representing renters in the planning process to reinforce tenant protections and incentivize resilient rental housing
- Implement expansive eligibility and streamlines processes for post-disaster rental assistance and provide multiple avenues for renters to access support
- Strengthen post-disaster rental opportunities and protections, like working with affordable housing providers and implement eviction bans and rental caps
- Develop outreach campaigns that specifically target renters
- Partner with local organizations to better understand and cater to vulnerable renters

## Conclusion

Emergency management and disaster science communities continue calls for bridging the research and practice gap. DRCit! offers an innovative approach to deliver evidence-based research findings to where it can have the greatest impact.

## Learn more about the Disaster Research Center



## Citations

Scan here for hurricane evacuation bibliography



Scan here for renter vulnerability bibliography



## Acknowledgments

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