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COMPETITIVE DIVISION – PRACTITIONER

Using Maps to Enhance Understanding of Hazards in a Campus Community

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) provide powerful tools for the analysis and visualization of geospatial data, but are GIS-produced maps an effective way to communicate about hazards to a lay audience on a small college campus? In early 2019, Amherst College conducted a Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment. The final report is sprinkled with various maps to visualize data, but also to make the content more visually appealing and to communicate concepts and information to layperson readers with a judicious use of words and economy of length. Following the completion of the report, the authors solicited qualitative feedback from non-practitioner stakeholders to understand if and how maps enhanced their understanding of the profiled hazards.

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**Collaborators:**

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