INSTITUTE FOR A DISASTER RESILIENT TEXAS
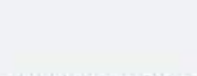
Dear Friends and Colleagues,

IDRT continues to thrive, hit key milestones, and expand our impacts as we successfully implement our knowledge to action research model. We have much to share, from new hires to flourishing programs and exciting new projects. Below you will find select details of our most recent accomplishments and work. As always, we appreciate your continued support and interest in our work.

Thanks,

Samuel Brody, PhD
Director, Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas
Texas A&M University, Galveston Campus

BUYERS AWARE

The Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas (IDRT) is proud to announce the launch of Buyers Aware, a web-based analytical tool to assess the flood and wildfire risk to individual residential structures in Hurricane Harvey-impacted areas in Texas. Created for free public use by the Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas at Texas A&M University with support from the Texas Division of Emergency Management, Buyers Aware is designed to increase awareness and help Texans make better decisions to protect themselves from the impacts of hazards. Users can simply enter a street address or click on a parcel and receive a comprehensive, easy-to-understand graphic and statistical risk assessment for a selected property.

Click to view **Buyers Aware** website.

Institute Announcements
New Additions to the IDRT Team

Jesús A. Palomo

Jesús has joined IDRT as the Director of Operations, bringing extensive experience from his previous role as Director and Operations Manager at Texas A&M's Health Science Center. In his new position, Jesús oversees and optimizes IDRT's strategic and operational initiatives, ensuring smooth management to enhance the Institute's impact.

Tammisha Farmer

We welcomed Tammisha to IDRT's Operations Team as the new Associate Director for the Texas Disaster Information System (TDIS) in July. Tammisha brings a wealth of experience from her previous roles at Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (TEES) and Texas A&M's Divisions of Information Technology.

Federico Antolini, Ph.D.

Federico, originally a post-doc at IDRT, recently accepted a position as Assistant Research Scientist. Federico is serving as PI for our M3FR project, and advancing his research on flood risk visualization and spatially distributed flood mitigation.

Daniel Arriaga

Daniel is our new Program Specialist IV. Daniel has been working with IDRT for the past few years as a consultant offering his stellar support as a program coordinator. We were able to offer him a full-time position on the IDRT Operation Team, and we could not be more excited he accepted the offer!

Nicholas Diaz, Ph.D.

We are thrilled to announce that Marine and Coastal Management Science doctoral student, Nicholas Diaz, has accepted a two-year post-doc position with the Institute. During his postdoc, Nick will focus on advancing drone-based data collection initiatives and establishing a disaster data reconnaissance center to streamline those initiatives.

IRES

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCES FOR STUDENTS

IRES: International Research Experience for Students

Pictured above are students studying in the Netherlands during the Summer 2024 IRES trip

The second year of the NSF-funded International Research Experiences for Students (IRES) Flood Resilience Program (FRP) between the U.S. and the Netherlands has been a resounding success! This summer, six students traveled to the Netherlands for a six-week immersive research experience, where they collaborated with leading experts on flood risk mitigation and management.

Two members of the 2024 cohort have already presented their findings at a professional conference, showcasing the program's impact on developing future leaders in flood resilience. In August, the cohort reunited in the U.S. for their first in-person research meeting, sharing their progress with a wider audience and reflecting on their international experience. With the application window for Summer 2025 now closed, we are excited to welcome the next cohort of talented students to continue this impactful journey!

News & Announcements

MS2 Application Update
The Model Storage and Management System (MS2) is a collaborative initiative between the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) and TDIS. MS2 is designed to store and preserve key hydrologic and hydraulic (H&H) models for TWDB's State Flood Plan. This system supports the implementation of Texas's first statewide flood planning program.

VIEW

Publications in New Research Area
Dr. Jooho Kim's latest publications highlight the expanding research of the Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas into critical areas such as tornado evacuation analytics and emergency water distribution systems.

VIEW

M3FR model catalog launches.
The Measuring, Mapping, & Managing Flood Risk in Texas (M3FR) project, funded by the Texas General Land Office and led by IDRT, aims to enhance flood risk communication by integrating diverse hazard models and applying best practices. In September 2024, the model catalog was officially launched!

VIEW

TDIS launches the DMQT tool!
In collaboration with the Texas General Land Office (GLO), TDIS has launched the Data and Model Query Tool (DMQT), providing users access to a centralized repository of flood models.

VIEW

Visit Us

Please come and visit us! We are located at the Ion building in the heart of Houston, and are eager to collaborate with those seeking to build a more resilient Texas.

IDRT

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