

**A Study about Mining and Natural Disasters  
LETTER OF INFORMATION / CONSENT**

**Principal Investigator**

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**Principal Student Investigator**

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**Purpose of the Study:**

You are invited to take part in this study on natural disasters and mining. In this study we are interested in understanding what influences mining managers to prepare for natural disasters, specifically fires and floods. We expect findings will be useful to mining managers and mining industry associations. The research will inform practitioner reports, will be presented at academic conferences, and appear in journal articles and book chapters.

**Procedures involved in the Research:**

This study will take you approximately 15 minutes to complete. You will respond to several questions. The questions will be mostly on a scale of 1-7.

You will complete the survey online using McMaster's LimeSurvey platform. The survey invitation will be sent by email and hosted on a McMaster server. After the initial recruitment email, you will receive a follow-up email two weeks later reminding you to participate. Two weeks after the second email we will follow-up with a reminder phone call. During which time, you will be able to complete the survey over the phone. Phone interviews will be conducted by Emily Lalonde, the principal student investigator.

Participants will receive \$20 as a token of appreciation.

**Potential Harms, Risks or Discomforts:**

The risks involved in participating in this study are minimal. You may feel a heightened sense of concern you're your vulnerability to wildfires and floods. However, it is unlikely that this will be a significant source of concern. All information that you provide will be confidential and stored on secured servers. Only research team members will have access. Further, you are not required to answer questions that you do not want to answer or that make you feel uncomfortable.

**Potential Benefits**

This research will likely not benefit you directly. However, the results of this research should help to better understand why managers prepare for natural disasters.

**Confidentiality**

Your participation in this study is confidential. Only the research team will know your identity. For further privacy, data with identifying information will be removed and replaced with a code. A spreadsheet will provide the link between the data you provide and identifying information. This identifying information will be used to incorporate publicly available data about your organization and natural disaster information about your physical location. Only the principle investigator and student investigator will have access to the spreadsheet.

All the data will be encrypted and stored on a secure server with access available only for the members of the research group. The members of the research team have each signed confidentiality agreements. Any paper copies of information/data you provide will be kept in locked desk/cabinet in Dr. McKnight's office. Once the study is complete, only an archive of the data, without identifying information will be maintained. The archived data will be held for 5 years.

**Participation and Withdrawal:**

Your participation in this study is voluntary. Your decision to participate or not participate will not be communicated to anyone. There will be no consequences to you. You may also choose not to answer some of the questions and remain in the study.

You can withdraw from the study for whatever reason, even in the middle of the survey or up until 2 weeks following the interview. If you decide to withdraw, there will be no consequences to you. In cases of withdrawal, any data you have provided will be destroyed unless you indicate otherwise. **Those that withdraw from the study will still receive the \$20 remuneration.** To withdraw simply email the principal investigator – Dr. McKnight.

**Information about the Study Results:**

A summary of the results will be posted at <https://resilience.degroot.mcmaster.ca/> by July 31st, 2020. If you would like to receive the summary personally, please let me know how you would like me to send it to you.

**Questions about the Study:**

If you have questions or need more information about the study itself, please contact a member of the research team.

This study has been reviewed by the McMaster University Research Ethics Board and received ethics clearance. If you have concerns or questions about your rights as a participant or about the way the study is conducted, please contact:

McMaster Research Ethics Secretariat  
Telephone: (905) 525-9140 ext. 23142  
C/o Research Office for Administrative Development and Support  
E-mail: [ethicsoffice@mcmaster.ca](mailto:ethicsoffice@mcmaster.ca)