

The International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters is published triannually during the months of March, August and November. It is concerned with the social and behavioural aspects of relatively sudden collective stress situations typically referred to as disasters or mass emergencies.

All aspects of the life history of such events, both actual and threatened, are examined including mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery activities. These situations often are created by natural disaster agents, technological accidents, violent intergroup conflicts, shortages of vital resources, acute and chronic environmental threats, and other kinds of major hazards to life, health, property, well-being and everyday routines. While the focus of the Journal is on work dealing with the human and organizational aspects of mass emergencies, contributions concerning medical, biological, physical engineering or other technical matters are acceptable if social and behavioral features of disasters are also prominently threatened.

The Journal addresses issues of theory, research, planning and policy. The central purpose is publication of results of scientific research, theoretical and policy studies, and scholarly accounts of such events as floods and earthquakes, explosions and massive fires disorderly crowds and riots, energy cut-offs and power blackouts, toxic chemical poisonings and nuclear radiation exposures, and similar types of sudden crisis-generating situations. Its audience includes specialists within various areas of research and teaching plus people working in the field who are responsible for mitigative, preparedness, response or recovery actions.

While each issue of the Journal usually deals with a variety of relevant topics, special issues on particular subjects are published whenever it is possible to bring together a set of articles on a specific problem area. Since the Journal is intended to provide an international forum, contributions from and about all sections of the world are published. Priority is given to those writing with cross-cultural data or implications. The Journal has five sections, although not all of these appear in any single issue.