

# **Disaster Preparedness by local government: A case study of Foreman and Kennedy Road informal settlements in the eThekweni Municipality**

**BY**

**DR BETHUEL SIBONGISENI NGCAMU**

**MANGOSUTHU UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY**



# INTRODUCTION

- ❑ Disasters have inflicted a heavy cost on human, material and physical resources.
- ❑ SA fails to implement disaster management strategies such as preparedness.
- ❑ Preparedness is the state of readiness to respond to an emergency based on planning, training, and exercise.
- ❑ Informal settlement growth in metropolitan areas.
- ❑ Disaster Management Act 57 of 2002: disaster preparedness ensures that appropriate systems, procedures and resources are in place to provide effective assistance to disaster victims, thus facilitating relief measures and rehabilitation services.

## Continues

- ❑ Neglect, social marginalization and limited access to resources compel helpless people to live and work in hazard-prone areas.
- ❑ Foreman and Kennedy Road informal settlements are prone to emergencies such as floods, fires and storm surges which negatively impact on people living in these vulnerable areas.
- ❑ Poor legislative systems regulating informal settlements.
- ❑ Inadequate disaster preparedness.
- ❑ Absence of basic services such as clean drinking water, poor sanitation and electricity.
- ❑ Informal settlements are deemed by the United Nations as areas where groups of housing have been constructed on land to which the occupants have no legal claim.
- ❑ They are common features of developing countries and are typically the product of an urgent need for shelter by urban poor.



## PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

- ❑ Development of a robust disaster management policy and the centre within the eThekweni municipality.
- ❑ Disaster department to function effectively and efficiently by applying new strategies for disaster preparedness.
- ❑ To add value to the body of knowledge .
- ❑ To provide developmental recommendations

## CONCEPTUALISATION

- ❑ Disaster preparedness encompasses measures aimed at enhancing life safety when a disaster occurs.
- ❑ It also includes actions designed to enhance the ability to undertake emergency actions to protect property and contain disaster damage and disruption.
- ❑ Attempt to forecast & mitigate the impact of disasters, respond to disasters.

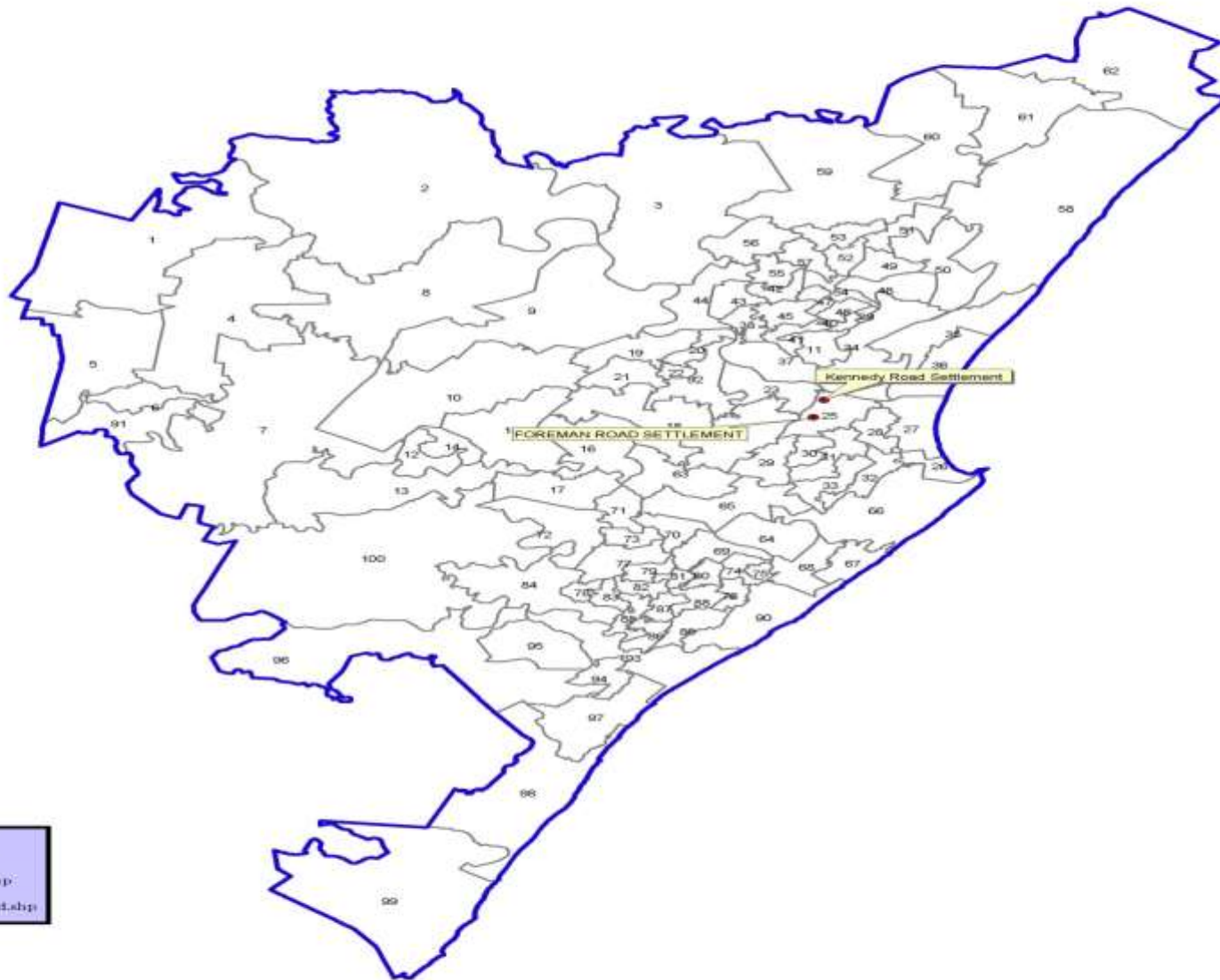
### Strategies for disaster preparedness include:

- i. Awareness of event that is most likely to happen at a particular time and at a specific geographical location, risk and vulnerability assessment, response mechanisms, coordination,
- ii. information management, and the implementation of early-warning systems.
- iii. preparedness is to bring the skills, knowledge, functions and systems together and apply them against event scenarios.

## SCOPE OF THE STUDY

- ❑ Foreman and Kennedy Road informal settlements located in Clare Estate, under Ward 25, in Durban.
- ❑ These settlements are located within eThekweni Municipality.
- ❑ These settlements are represented by an organisation called Abahlali baseMjondolo.
- ❑ Power-KZN Elimination and Prevention of Re-emergence of Slum Bill, 2006.
- ❑ Exploitation by politicians, academics, tavern etc.

# LOCALITY PLAN (KENNEDY AND FOREMAN ROAD SETTLEMENTS)



**LEGEND**

	Ward_bdy.shp
	Kennedy_road.shp





## METHODOLOGY

- ❑ Questionnaires were administered to a population size of 220 respondents from which a sample size of 140 respondents.
- ❑ The questionnaire was analysed statistically using the Statistical Packages for Social Sciences .
- ❑ A response rate of 63.6% was generated.
- ❑ Semi-structured interviews were also conducted with municipality officials.
- ❑ Two categories of data collected that include biographical profiles and 4 dimensions.
- ❑ This study used nominal, ordinal and Likert scale to distinguish the variables of the study.

## PROBLEM STATEMENT

- ❑ Act of 2002 does not provide detailed guidance for the preparation of disaster management plans
- ❑ Some of the information in a disaster management plan concerns operational procedures, which are not for general stakeholder consumption.
- ❑ Location of the informal settlements.
- ❑ The challenge exists in deciding which of the disaster management components should be included in the IDP.
- ❑ Delays in halting fires because of inefficiency and ineffectiveness from municipal officials.
- ❑ Its sole function is to supply blankets and food parcels after an emergency or a disaster.
- ❑ Disaster management is synopsised in the IDP.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

- ❑ Moses parting the Red Sea which can be interpreted as the first attempt at flood control.
- ❑ Noah and the Ark, when he built an ark from cypress wood, coated it with pitch inside and out, as a mitigation strategy for the forthcoming predicted floodwaters.
- ❑ Promulgation of the United State of America (USA) Congressional Act of 1803 which was passed to provide financial assistance to a New Hampshire town that had been devastated by fires.
- ❑ The cold war era where the nuclear war was seen as a potential disaster threat.

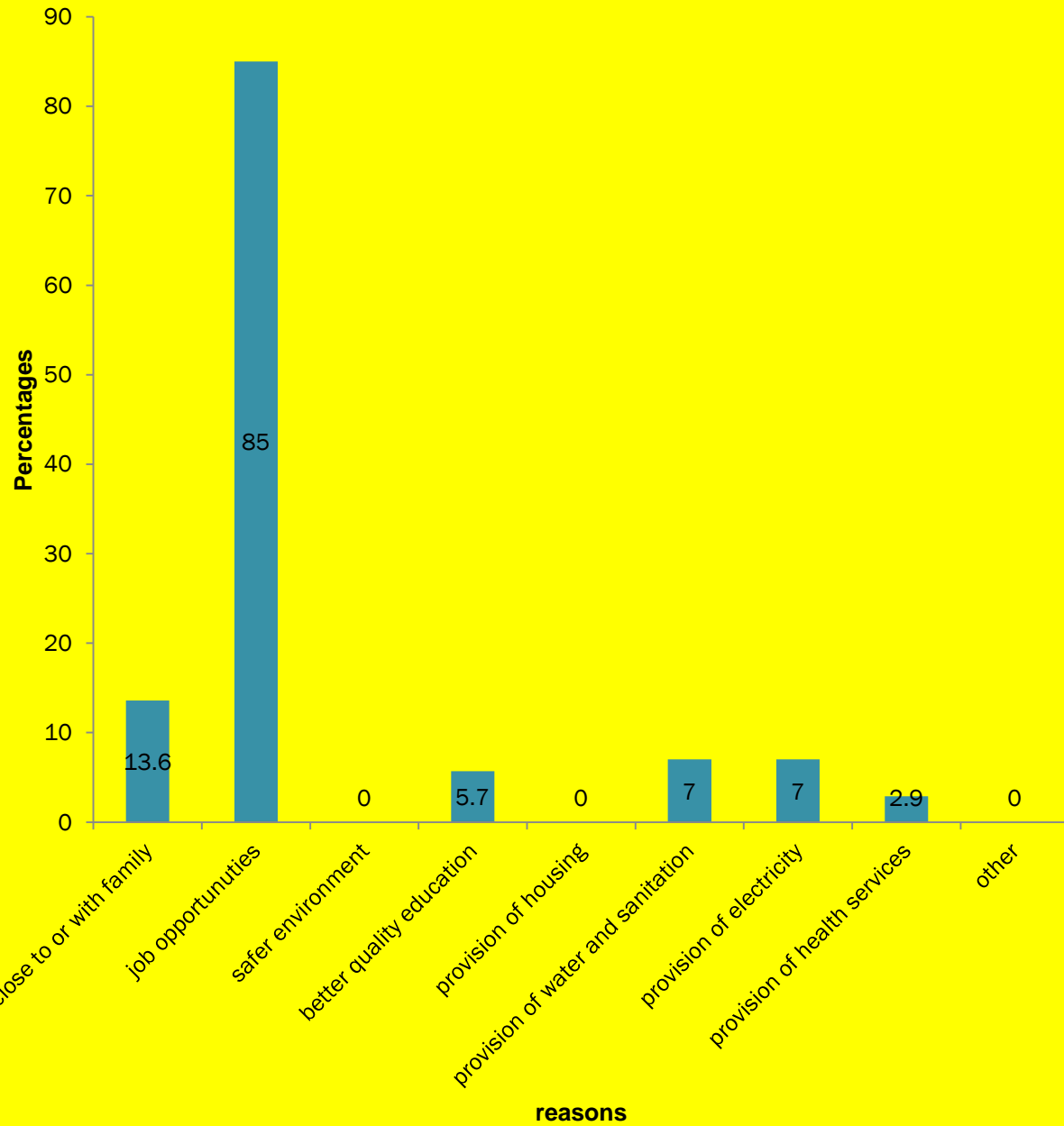
- ❑ UN is encouraging the building of early warning systems and conducting monitoring and forecasting routines which are working to increase local capacity to adequately boost local and regional preparedness .
- ❑ Developed countries, there are also good public-private partnerships which help for disaster preparedness and mitigation programmes.
- ❑ There are four parts to a preparedness programme which encapsulates planning, training and education, resource management and exercising, which refers to the physical training of the personnel such as fire marshals.

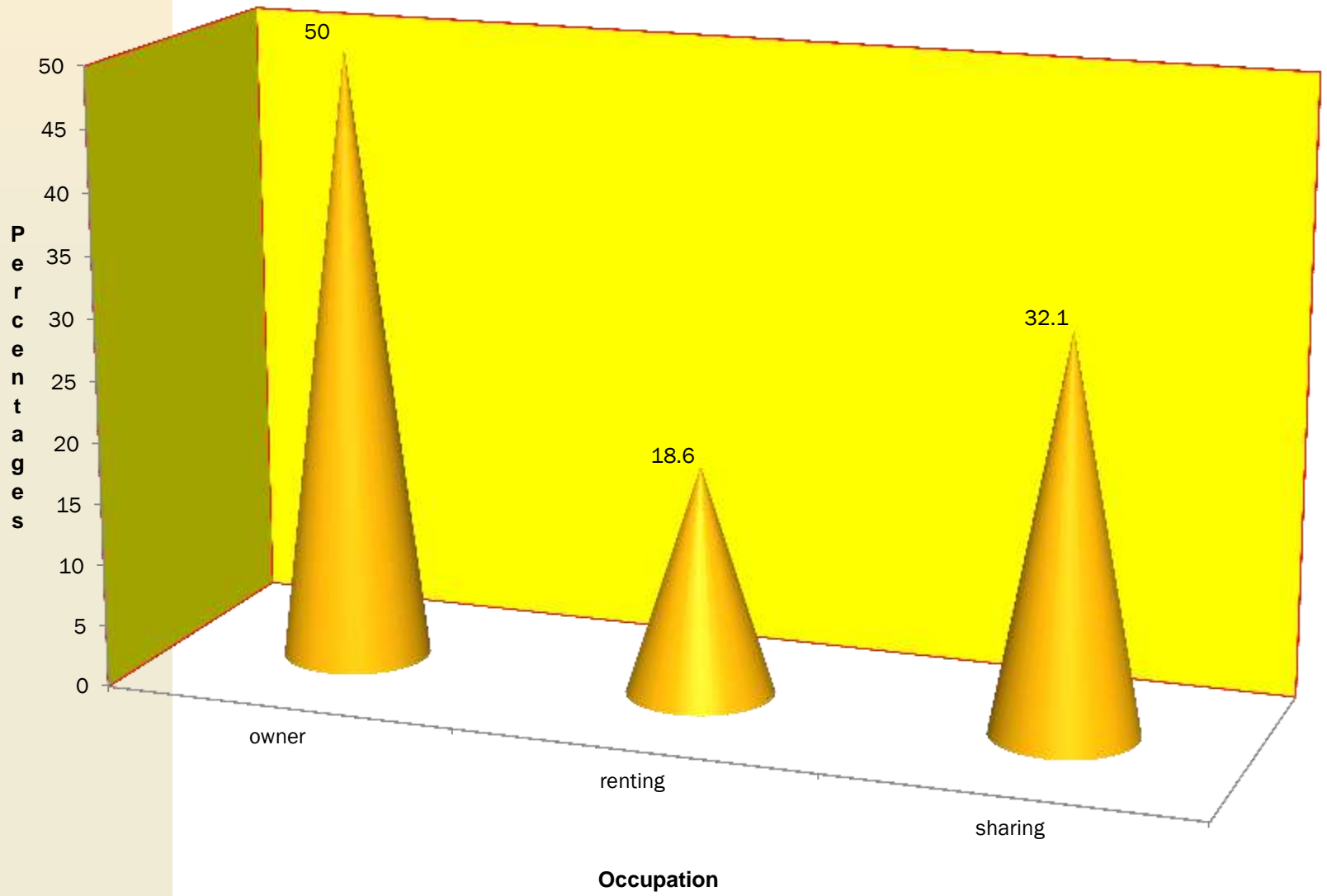
## DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

- ❑ Constitution: ensure the health of people, environmental protection and safety of its citizens.
- ❑ section 41 (1) (b) states that all spheres of government are required to “*secure the well being of the people of South Africa*”.
- ❑ It further provides, in section 152(e), that “*the objects of local government are to encourage the involvement of communities and community organisations in the matters of local government*”.
- ❑ Influenced by New Public Management (NPM), the South African government embarked on legislative transformation.
- ❑ NPM has selected applications which include decentralising disaster management from national government down to local government.
- ❑ Governmental managers have to increasingly evaluate and make necessary adjustments to all developmental projects so that they are able to involve risks, vulnerabilities and capacities.
- ❑ The Act presents new challenges in not only negotiating and writing up disaster management plans, but also in developing disaster management plans for general public scrutiny.

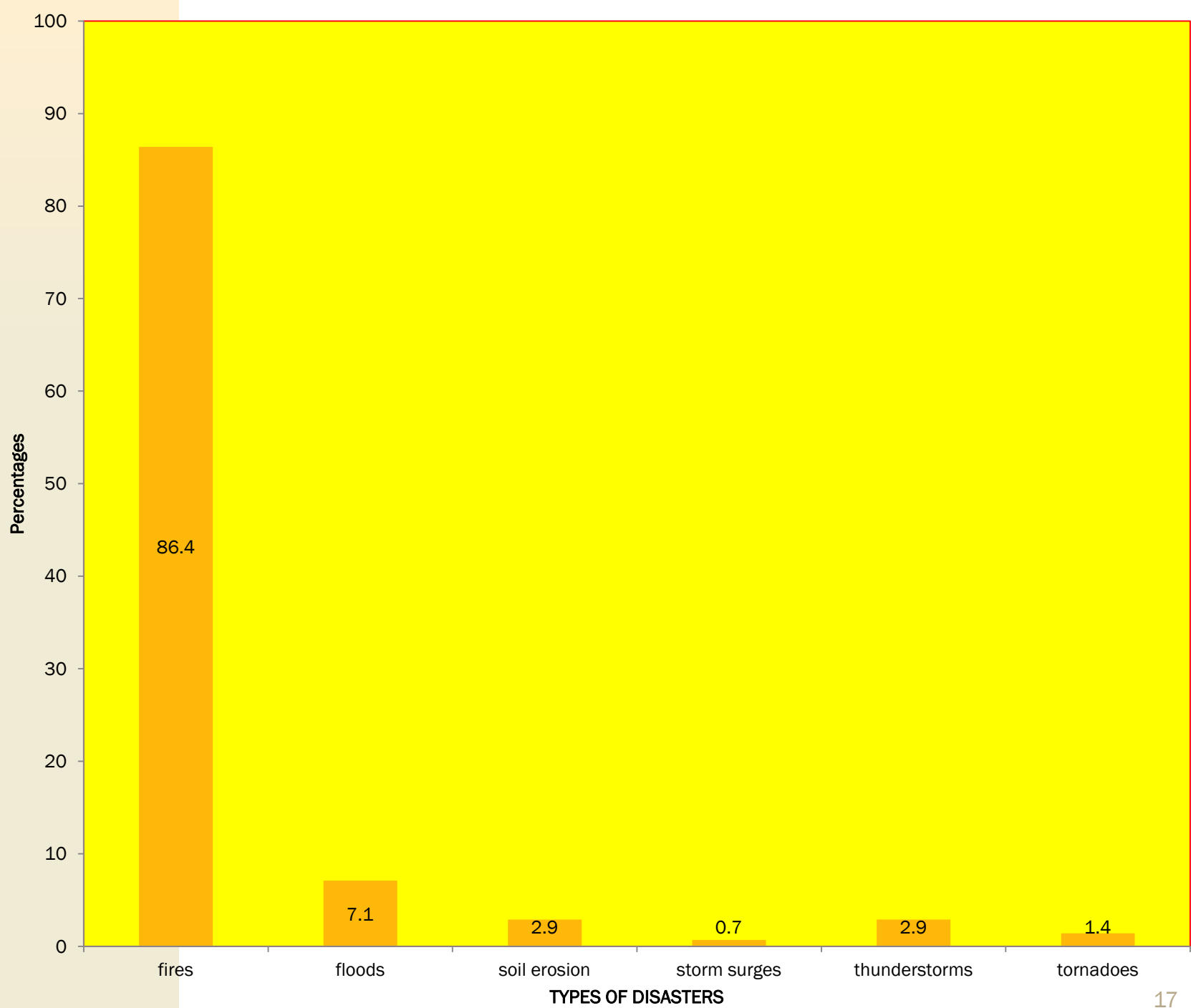


# EMPIRICAL FINDINGS



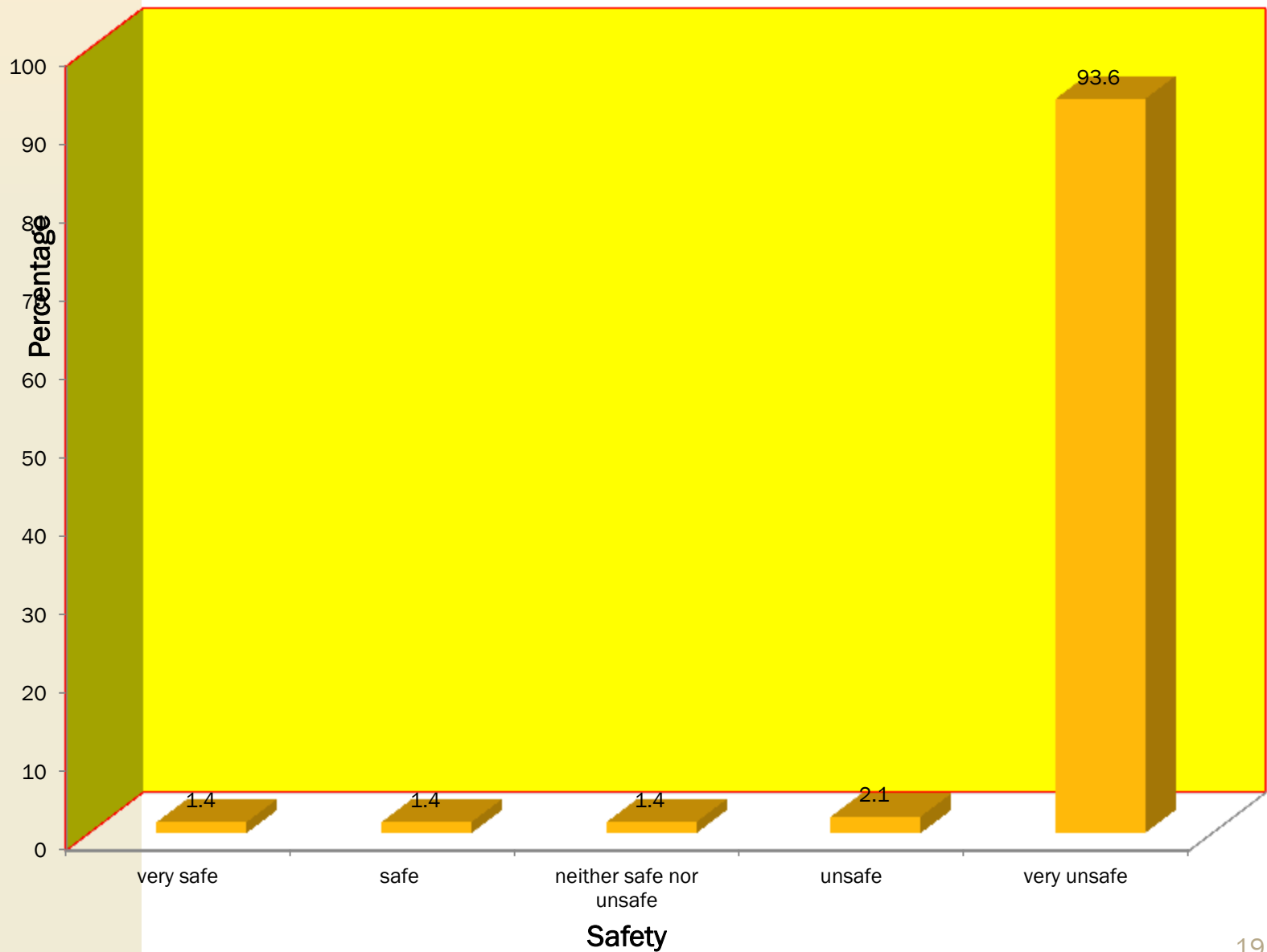




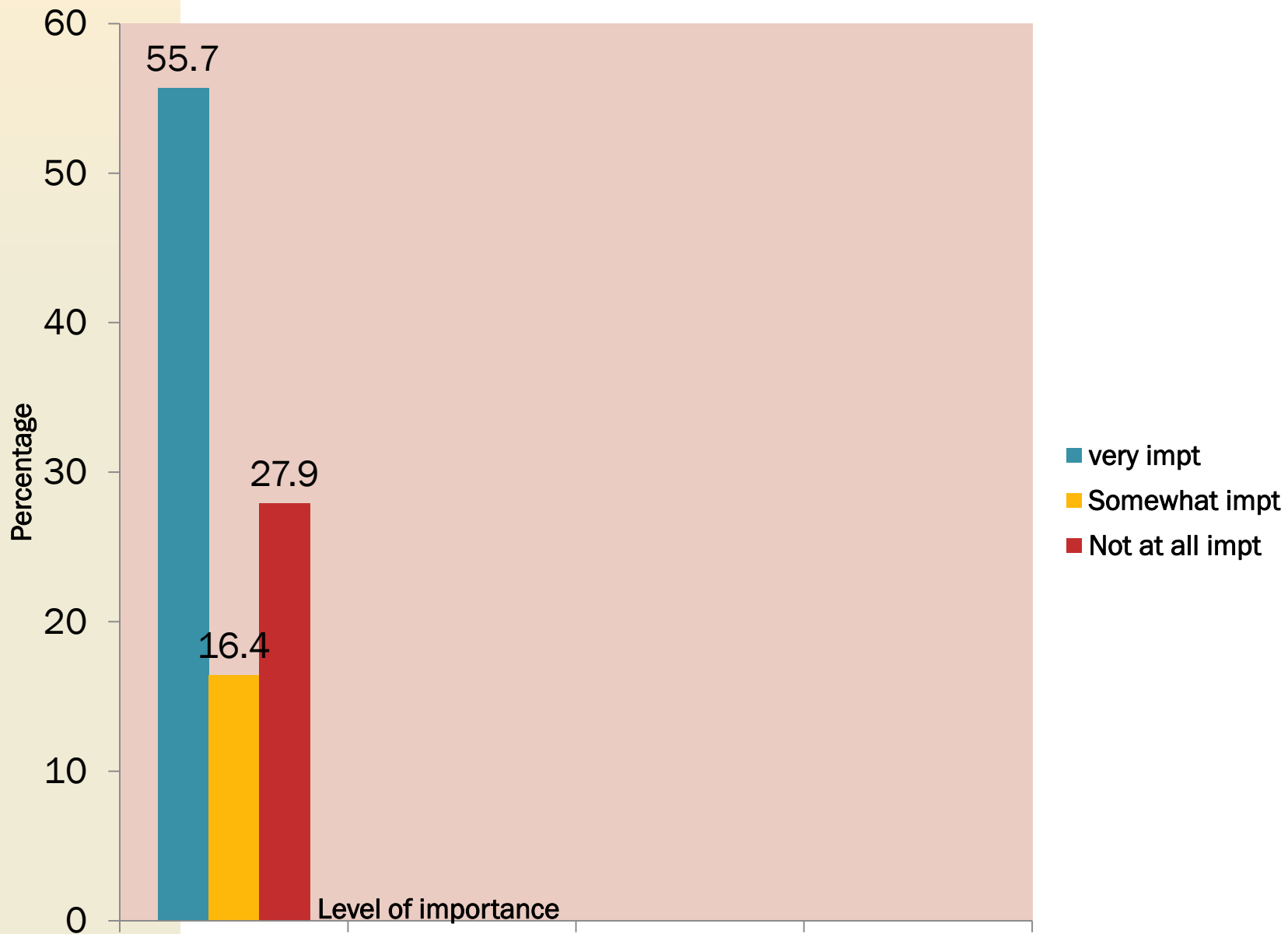




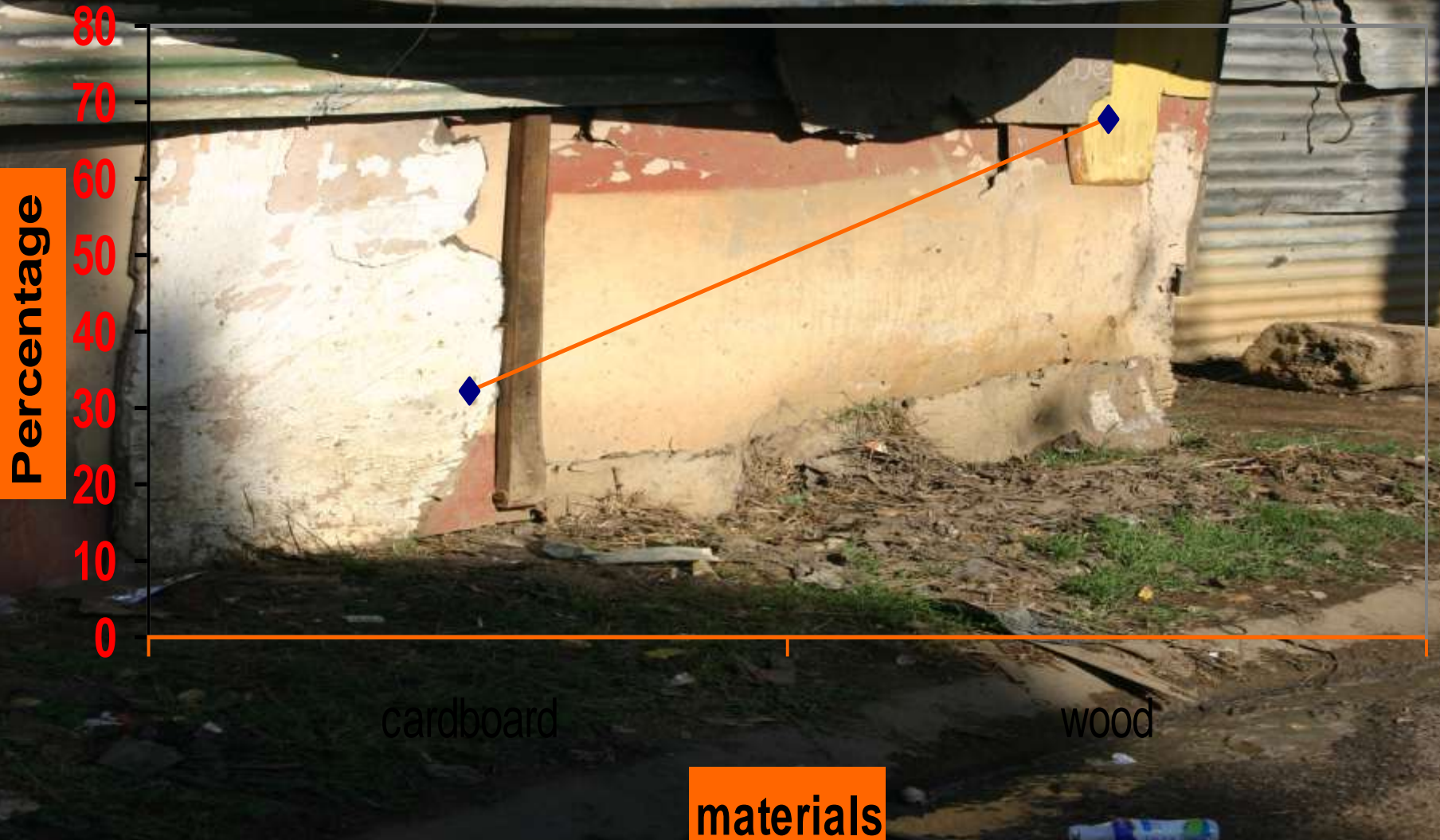
# Protection from floods



# The role of communities in disaster or emergency management before and after the disaster



# Types of building materials



## DISCUSSION

- ❑ An urgent need for the decentralisation of industries and basic services to rural areas.
- ❑ Overcrowding of people in the informal settlements makes it difficult for the municipalities, with budgeted resources, to prepare and prevent disasters.
- ❑ There are no fire extinguishers and water hydrants and preparedness strategies in the form of awareness and education.
- ❑ Planning policies and practices within the eThekweni Municipality fail to help informal settlements that are susceptible to fires through early warning systems.
- ❑ Absence of a 24 hour community warning devices and procedures.
- ❑ The council should implement best practice which includes indigenous knowledge application, disaster management plans and development initiatives.
- ❑ The role of the civil society.
- ❑ The use of GIS and remote sensing.

## **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- ❑ National Task Team involving all stakeholders is required.**
- ❑ Local governments require the assistance of structures involving all disaster practitioners and specialists dedicated to monitoring and improving disaster preparedness approaches.**
- ❑ The council should implement best practice which includes indigenous knowledge application, disaster management plans and development initiatives.**
- ❑ Fire and Emergency Services should design a course in Fire Fighting and Prevention specifically to be implemented in the informal settlements.**

## CONTINUES

- ❑ Public-private partnership in preparedness planning.
- ❑ Municipalities should promote integrated and coordinated disaster management through partnerships between different stakeholders and through cooperative relations between all spheres of government.
- ❑ Compliance to the provisions of the Act.
- ❑ Establishment of the policy on informal settlements management.
- ❑ Vulnerability index needs to be developed by the municipality in order to quantify risks in these informal settlements.



# FUTURE RESEARCH

- ❑ Disaster preparedness often fails because it is rarely evidence based.
- ❑ GIS and Remote Sensing as preparedness tool used in the informal settlements.
- ❑ Disaster risk reduction should be part of the primary and secondary curricula.
- ❑ BPR/BPM interventions in disaster management departments.
- ❑ Project management and disaster management.



**THANK YOU!!!**