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Comment

Interactive comment on “Interdependence and dynamics of essential services in an extensive risk context: a case study in Montserrat, West Indies” by V. L. Sword-Daniels et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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The article is extremely well structured. Methodology and case study context are thoroughly described, therefore the research aim and results are comprehensible. Thank you for that. With respect to the results and discussions I have a few comments that you might want to take into account:

- The types of interdependencies that you introduce are of a qualitative nature, for example in your description of the typology you argue in a qualitative way why you chose those five. Your results however are mainly derived from quantitative analysis of occurrences. This implies that all relationships are of the same importance or relevance which is highly unlikely.

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- You might give more thought to the connection between general and volcanic relationships. The concept of sleeping links is mentioned in the article but there is no discussion on how that refers to the method of mapping that you apply yourself. Furthermore, especially with informational relations these usually rely on a communicative routines. Whether any relationship can be treated as a link existing only during volcanic activity needs to be explained.

- If I understand you correctly, you argue that the need for coordination increases in crises (which is a common observation) and therefore the corresponding linkages are needed. But the dominance of informational and organisational linkages in a stressed state could easily be explained as an artefact of the data collection as during the interviews general communicative processes are not mentioned because they are a matter of course and therefor implicit. Maybe you could counter this expectable objection somehow.

Interactive comment on Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 3, 1025, 2015.

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