

Interactive comment on “The dark side of risk and crisis communication: legal conflicts and responsibility allocation” by A. Scolobig

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This work considers some of the legal aspects of communication in DDR management. It is a critical issue, given the increasingly litigious nature of society, and the growing negative consequences of natural disasters. I therefore recommend that this work be accepted following some minor corrections. The paper is generally well written, however, I include an annotated manuscript with some corrections and suggestions, many of which are more a case of “taste”.

My major concern is that while the author presents four examples where legal and communication issues are of relevance, she appears to not refer to them very often within the main text. This is unfortunate and I suggest that this should be done more in

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order to illustrate specific points that would be of value. I also suggest greater reference to existing frameworks. For example, I believe (forgive me if I am mistaken) that within earthquake early warning in Japan, the responsible agency is exempt from litigation in the event of incorrect/lack of warnings.

Another point is perhaps some comments should be made about “educating” the public. As I note in the annotated manuscript, it is all well and fine to communicate information and to give “people choice” but such choice must be backed up by training/education. Of course this is a very large paper by itself, but this point should be mentioned, including the difficulties of providing appropriate “alerts” and “education” within different cultural contexts. I must confess that while I agree completely with empowering a community to deal with disasters, one wonders if there is not a desire to “pass the buck” so to speak (this latter point is simply a personal pondering).

Some minor comments:

Again, many minor comments and corrections are included in the annotated text.

Page 2741, lines 5-12. Please add references relevant to each point.

Page 2742, line 21. When did these landslides occur?

Page 2750, lines 22-23. “These results “ I am sorry, I am not sure what your saying here.

I wish the author all the best in the finalizing of this paper and I look forward to its final publication. And please accept my apologies for the delay in forwarding this to you.

Regards Kevin Fleming GFZ Potsdam

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<http://www.nat-hazards-earth-syst-sci-discuss.net/3/C790/2015/nhessd-3-C790-2015-supplement.pdf>

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