

# Assessing the Full Spectrum of Communication Needs for Potentially Hazardous NEO's

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# Overview

**Communications** -- What is it? What's Needed?

## **Information Drawn from Multiple Sources**

- Natural Hazards / Disaster Management Literature & Experiences
- Risk Analysis, Risk Perception, Risk Communication Literature
- Simulations and Emerging 'New' Threats

**Map NEOs onto Generic Hazard, Risk, Vulnerability, Awareness patterns**

**NEO Communication Needs: Planning, Preparedness, Response, E/PO**

Acknowledge & Address Complexity

Officials and Infrastructure vs. Public

**Communication Areas Needing Special Attention**

Especially: Evacuations

**For NEO Communication Strategic Plans-- Include Broad Perspective**



# Communications?

Depends on Perspective & Needs



## EXPERTS

Hazard  
Risk  
Vulnerability

Detection

Deflection

Decision Making

Mitigation, Infrastructure, Preparedness

Warnings/Imminent Threats

Audience =  
*Professional Communities*

## PUBLIC

Mass media  
Individuals

Education (E/PO)

News/Incidents (Who What When Where Why)

Instructions/Info for "Individual" Use



# Generic Hazard/Disaster Pattern

[David Alexander: Principles of Emergency Planning & Management]



Hazard, Risk & Vulnerability/----- **Disaster Impact** ----- /Hazard Risk & Vulnerability

Quiescent/ Incubation

Preparation

Infrastructure

Warning & Alarm

Impact

**Emergency/ Crisis Period**

Responses

Restoration & Recovery

Replacement/Reconstruction

Social evolution & new understanding over time.  
*Frequency needs to be often enough to reinforce*

Size  
Frequency  
Familiarity  
Predictive Capabilities  
-----  
General Threats v.  
Specific Threats v.  
Imminent Threats



# NEO Hazard & Disaster Pattern



Hazard, Risk & Vulnerability/----- **Disaster Impact** ----- /Hazard Risk & Vulnerability

Quiescent/ Incubation

Preparation

**X**

↑

**You Are Here**

Infrastructure

Warning & Alarm

Impact

Emergency/ Crisis Period

**GENERAL THREAT**

Responses

**SPECIFIC THREAT ?**

Restoration & Recovery

**IMMINENT THREAT**

Replacement/Reconstruction



# Communication Areas Associated with General Threat Info



Hazard, Risk & Vulnerability/----- **Disaster Impact** ----- /Hazard Risk & Vulnerability

## GENERAL THREATS

### Detection- Surveys

Understand NEO Risks- Lots of Uncertainty

2° Effects

Criteria for Size to Deflect etc.

### Deflection – Study Concepts

Educate Officials

Mitigation Planning

Link w/ Emerg. Response

Warning System

Build Infrastructure

### Decision Making ( UN?)

Response System

Launches (Test & Actual)

Chain of Command

Communication/Media

Preparedness/ Precautions

Crisis- Evacuations?

Different Stakeholders?



# Variables that Describe Disaster

[David Alexander: Principles of Emergency Planning & Management]



Hazard, Risk & Vulnerability/----- **Disaster Impact** ----- /Hazard Risk & Vulnerability

## GENERAL THREATS

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Chain of Command

Communication/Media

Preparedness/

### Precautions

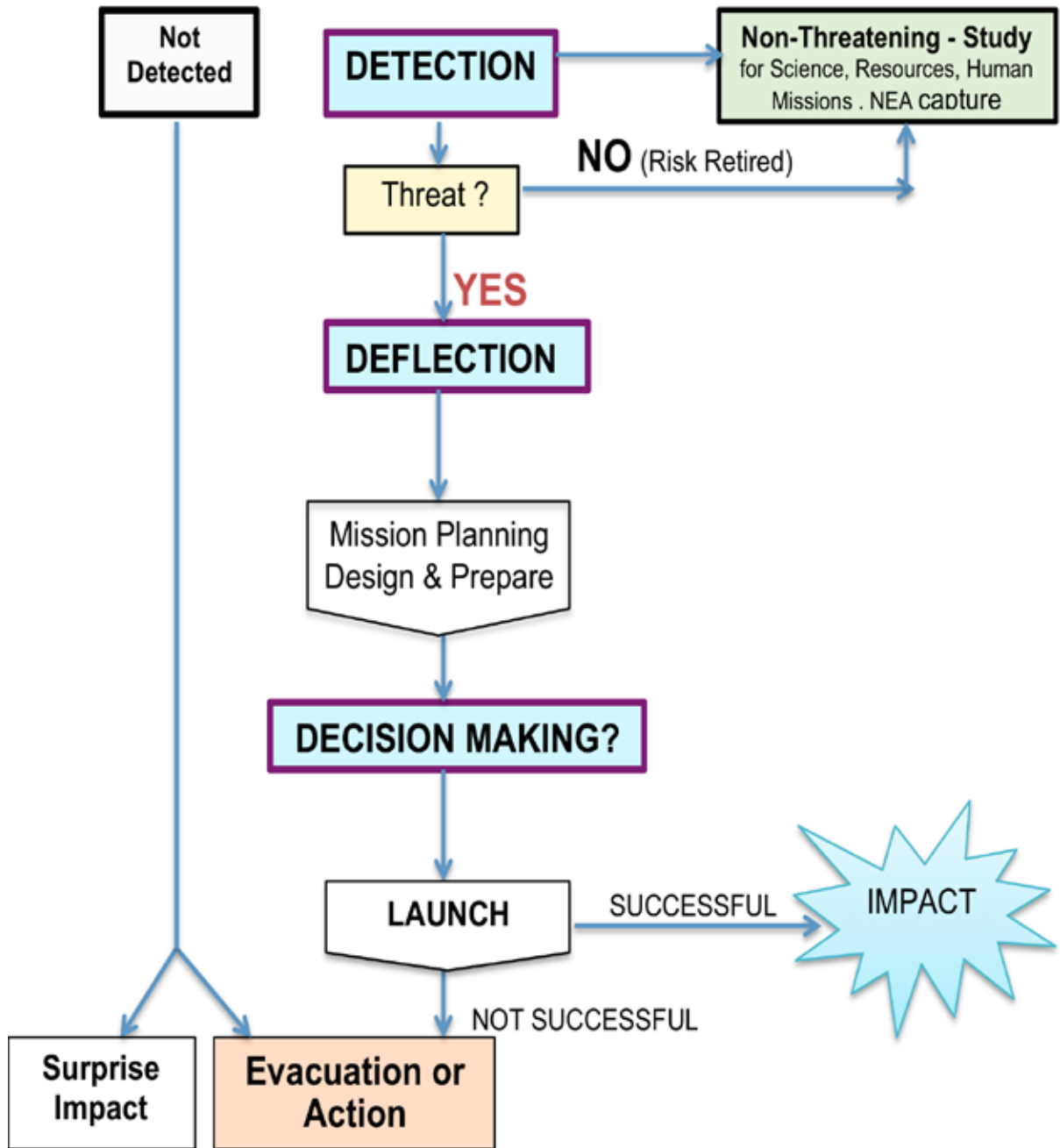
Crisis- Evacuations?

Different Stakeholders?

**SIMILAR FOR  
SPECIFIC THREATS**

**IMMINENT THREATS**

Different Communication Needed  
For EXPERTS  
PUBLIC



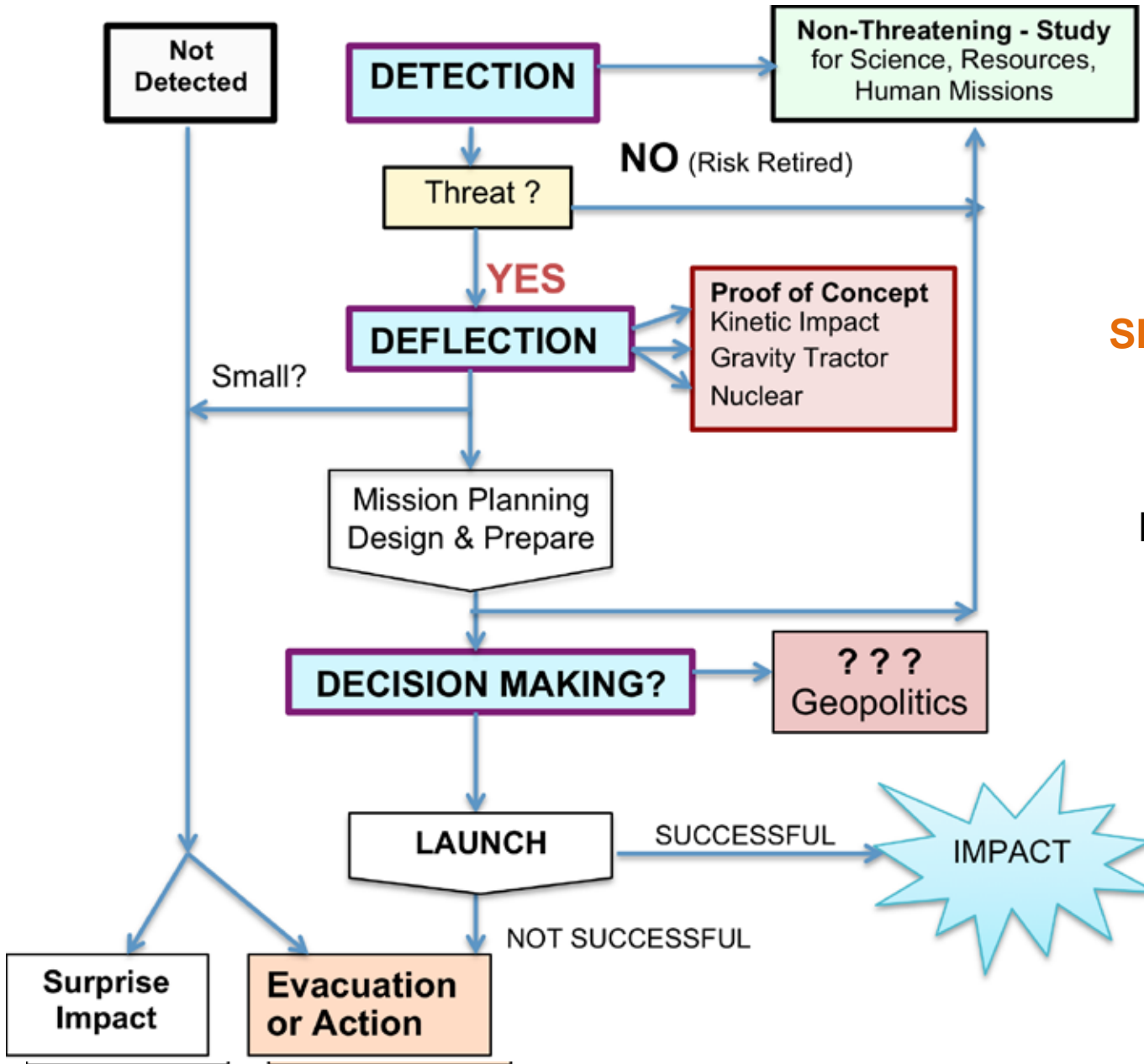
# THINK IN PHASES

NOW:

## GENERAL THREAT

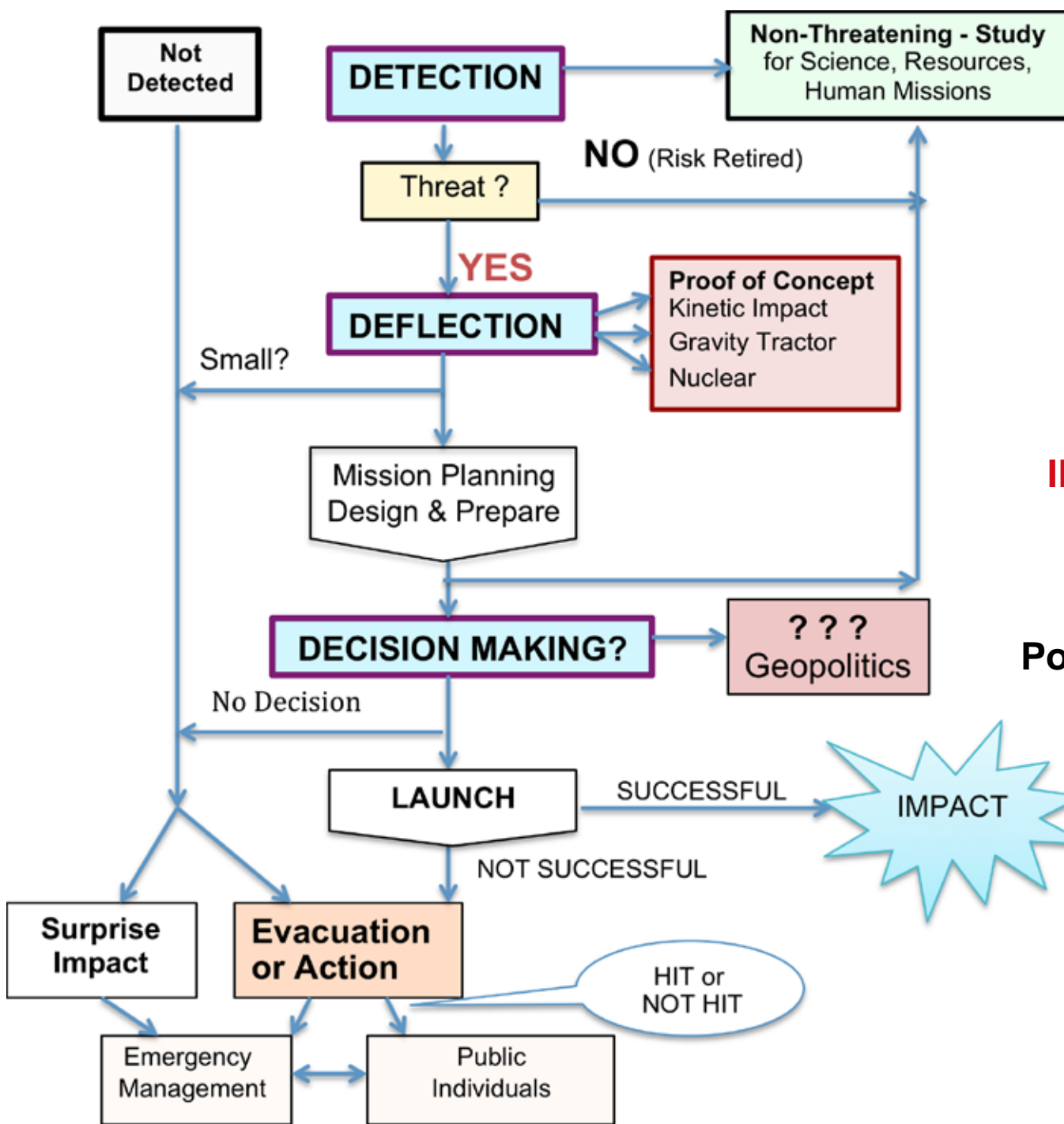
- Familiarize
- Building Capacity
- E/PO





**SPECIFIC THREAT**  
 E/PO  
 Explain Capacity

**Potential PROBLEMS**  
 Tests (espec. NED)  
 Legal/ NEPA (tests)  
 LONG Delays  
 Retire Risks  
 Non-Detected NEAs  
 Secondary Effects  
 Size Decisions



**IMMINENT THREAT**  
 News & Warning  
 Implementation

**Potential PROBLEMS**  
 Decision Making (UN)  
 Controversy NEDs?  
 Legal/ OST/ NEPA  
 LONG Delays (Psych)  
 Evacuation problems  
 Public Security  
 Liability (\$ Responsibility)



# NEO Communication Needs: Planning, Preparedness, Response, E/PO



## **Objective of Communication:**

Prepare, Save Lives; Reduce injuries;

Maintain sense of public security

If all goes well.... Non-disaster

## **BUT -- Unique to NEO Communications:**

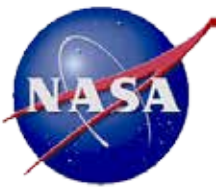
- Repeated False Alarms? Retire risks? Undetected?
- Long time period to prepare-- Time Lag; Public Worry? or Forget? Ignore?
- Expect Controversial Communications (not just one way)



# Anticipate Controversies & Issues



- **Test of different technologies** (potential probs– space advocates, step toward asteroid mining; military, nuclear in space etc)
- **Who Makes Decisions** about launches (Method? KI, GT, NED)
- **NEPA reqmts (US) & OST Questions** (Nukes; Military)  
Legal Challenges? Temporary Restraining Orders?
- **Geopolitics:** Technological Nations Impose Will on Others
- **Different Scale & Type of Evacuations?** Path? (Educated vs. non-educated publics)
- **No Individual Preparedness info** (except Evacuation)
- **Evacuations & False Alarms** (Liability? \$\$ and Responsibility)
- **No full scale drills possible**



# Potential Controversies & Issues



## Communication Control Issues

Like Topoff -- See **Conflicts** Global, National, Regional, Local

Armageddon, Science Fiction, Apocalypse Believers

Public Perspectives (ex. 50% Russians believe not meteorite)

Social Networks and Internet

**Return, Recovery, Resilience** ??? (think Fukushima; Chernobyl etc.

**Secondary Effects?** (tsunami, weather, shock waves, super floods, infrastructure failures... What can Individual do?



# Conclusions



- Agree Need Communication Strategy and Plan
- Approach Communications in Phases (General, Specific, Imminent)
- Anticipate/ Address Controversies as part of Communications
- Expect Issues with Communication Control & Coordination
- Likely Significant Issues with Evacuations
- Need New 'Rules' / Info Even for Disaster & Emergency Management Communities
- Problems with Lack of Individual Preparedness ?