

1126-68-330

LaKeisha Williams* (lakeisha.d.williams1@navy.mil), PO Box 190022, Attn: Keisha Williams, Code 71000, North Charleston, SC 29419, and **Lucas A Overbey** and **Bryan Williams**. *A Social Network Analysis of FEMA's Twitter Network*.

With the recent growth, capacity, and utility of social media platforms such as Twitter, many organizations have started taking advantage of online social media for emergency management, primarily focusing on response and recovery. Similarly, little work has investigated whether the generative social network inherent to emergency management organizations such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is effectively reaching an optimal cross-section of the relevant population through their social media strategies. In this work, we study the intra-organizational social network of FEMA in Twitter to identify patterns related to the authoritative sources of information and the dissemination of this information through the Twitter populace. Specifically, we analyze the interactions among FEMA's national and regional Twitter accounts, and the flow of information from these sources to the wider Twitter community. The research uses a framework primarily drawn from social network theory to better understand the structure of the information dissemination network. (Received January 17, 2017)