Reviewer's report

Title: Household disaster preparedness and information sources: Rapid cluster survey after a storm in New South Wales, Australia

Version: 1 Date: 3 March 2008

Reviewer: Josephine Malilay

Reviewer's report:

Overall comment. Sound, well-executed work.

Minor Essential Revisions. Pages 10-11. Instead of "Table 2," did you mean "Figure 6?" There are no tables at all in the attached copy for review.

Discretionary Revisions. To improve the article and expand the usefulness of the results, I suggest addressing specific public health-related issues in emergency and disaster preparedness and response particularly for future work in this area. A suggested list follows:

STUDY’S BACKGROUND/SURVEY TOPIC: PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATION
Emergency supplies: Status of prescription medications for X days among household members
Evacuation of 6000 families: Existence of household emergency plans
Household demographics: Identification of vulnerable subgroups in household, e.g., elderly, young children, chronically ill persons with special needs
Lack of water: Awareness of boil water orders, knowledge of household water disinfection techniques
Electricity interruption/use of gas barbeques, portable stoves: Knowledge of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning with improper use of stoves, awareness of CO detectors
Flooding in houses: Problems with indoor air quality, mold.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'