

Battle of Postdisaster Response and Restoration

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71 **Abstract:** The paper presents the results of the Battle of Post-Disaster Response and Restoration
72 (BPDRR), presented in a special session at the 1st International WDSA/CCWI Joint Conference, held in
73 Kingston, Ontario, in July 2018. The BPDRR problem focused on how to respond and restore water
74 service after the occurrence of five earthquake scenarios that cause structural damage in a water
75 distribution system. Participants were required to propose a prioritization schedule to fix the damages of
76 each scenario while following restrictions on visibility/non visibility of damages. Each team/approach
77 was evaluated against six performance criteria that included: 1) Time without supply for
78 hospital/firefighting, 2) Rapidity of recovery, 3) Resilience loss, 4) Average time of no user service, 5)
79 Number of users without service for 8 consecutive hours, and 6) Water loss. Three main types of
80 approaches were identified from the submissions: 1) General purpose metaheuristic algorithms, 2) Greedy
81 algorithms, and 3) Ranking-based prioritizations. All three approaches showed potential to solve the
82 challenge efficiently. The results of the participants showed that, for this network, the impact of a large-
83 diameter pipe failure on the network is more significant than several smaller pipes failures. The location
84 of isolation valves and the size of hydraulic segments influenced the resilience of the system during
85 emergencies. On average, the interruptions to water supply (hospitals and firefighting) varied
86 considerably between solutions and emergency scenarios, highlighting the importance of private water
87 storage for emergencies. The effects of damages and repair work were more noticeable during the peak

88 demand periods (morning and noontime) than during the low-flow periods; and tank storage helped to
89 preserve functionality of the network in the first few hours after a simulated event.

90

91 **Introduction**

92 A water distribution network (WDN) is one of the critical lifeline systems in a city. Its vulnerability to
93 earthquakes, and other natural disasters, not only threatens residential, commercial, and industrial
94 activities, but also can affect the capacity to attend to subsequent emergencies. Two of the most analysed
95 examples in the literature are the 17 January 1994 Northridge earthquake (Los Angeles, California) and
96 the 17 January 1995 Kobe earthquake (Japan). The first case resulted in more than 450,000 people losing
97 water service and at least eight hospitals evacuated due to water and power damages, while for the second
98 case, the earthquake affected the supply to more than 1.5 million people and required more than 30 hours
99 to extinguish the fires due to water unavailability in many hydrants (PAHO, 1998).

100 Considering the potential vulnerability and key role played by WDN during seismic events, researchers
101 have focused on three main topics: 1) How to assess the reliability of WDNs and other lifelines after
102 extreme seismic events (e.g., Hwang, et al., 1998; Wang & O'Rourke, 2006; Shi & O'Rourke, 2006,
103 Fragiadakis, et al., 2013; Liu et al., 2015); 2) How to reinforce the systems to minimize the impact of a
104 given event (e.g., Cimellaro et al., 2015; Yoo et al., 2016); or 3) How to quickly restore the systems to

105 normal/acceptable conditions after the event (e.g., Bonneau, & O'Rourke, 2009; Wang et al., 2010;
106 Mahmoud et al., 2018). From these, the restoration problem has been the least studied, leaving the
107 prioritization of resources to recover the functionality of the system to the expertise and criteria of utility
108 operators. Considering that lives of people are at stake due to vitality of the supply for firefighting, or
109 health care purposes, among other considerations, it is imperative to better characterize this problem and
110 evaluate if current knowledge of WDNs can be of use in such circumstances.

111 The Battle of Post-Disaster Response and Restoration (BPDRR) was the eighth call for academic and
112 non-academic professionals to address a common problem in the water distribution field. Dating back to
113 the first "Battle" in 1985, this series of competitions have focused on WDNs optimization (1985 and
114 2012), sensor placement for contaminant intrusion detection in WDNs (2006); WDNs model calibration
115 (2010); leakage assessment in WDNs (2014); district-metered-area sectorization of WDNs (2016); and
116 detection of cyber-attacks on WDNs (2017). For this version, the "Battle competition" focused on the
117 how to respond and restore the service in an existing WDN after the occurrence of five different
118 earthquake scenarios that damaged part of the distribution network. The results of the BPDRR were
119 presented in a special session in the 1st WDSA/CCWI Joint Conference, held in Kingston, Ontario, in July
120 2018. This manuscript summarizes the challenge, the results, and makes recommendations for future
121 research of the topic.

122

123 **Problem formulation**

124 The challenge addressed in the Battle is the one of identifying the best operational response in terms of
125 restoration interventions to return a water distribution network to fully functioning pre-catastrophic event
126 condition.

127 After an earthquake, damages to a WDN can degrade the water service in a city. There can be different
128 approaches for prioritization of available resources in order to restore the water service. To evaluate the
129 performance of the different approaches, a set of five post-disaster damage scenarios was generated on a
130 model of the B-City water distribution network, and participants were invited to propose responses and
131 restoration methods to return the system to pre-earthquake conditions. These damage scenarios, along
132 with a calibrated EPANET model of the network, and a description of the performance criteria were
133 provided to the participants. All data are included in the supplemental files of this manuscript and can be
134 found with the problem description (Paez et al., 2018a) in the website: [https://www.queensu.ca/wdsa-](https://www.queensu.ca/wdsa-ccwi2018/problem-description-and-files)
135 [ccwi2018/problem-description-and-files](https://www.queensu.ca/wdsa-ccwi2018/problem-description-and-files).

136 *B-City*

137 B-City is a water distribution network model of a real system in an undisclosed location. The network
138 consists of 4,909 junctions, 6,064 pipes, 1 reservoir, 4 pumps divided between two pump stations, and 5

139 district metered areas (DMA), each with one water tank (Figure 1). A total of 5,963 isolation valves are
140 also distributed along the pipes of the network, delimiting 2,451 segments as defined by Walski (1993).
141 The calibrated model also includes 24-hr demand patterns for residential and commercial/industrial
142 consumers. The daily mean consumption on a typical day is 1,023.8 L/s.

143 For pre-catastrophic conditions, the minimum pressure during the day, amongst all demand nodes is 24.5
144 m, which means that the demand is fully supplied (the minimum required pressure is 20.0 m).
145 Additionally, the tanks do not get emptied at any point, and their minimum levels vary from 0.62 m to
146 1.09 m.

147 *Damage scenarios*

148 One important assumption required to develop the problem was to consider that out of all network
149 elements, only pipes were damaged during the events. In other words, facilities like pump stations, tanks,
150 and the source reservoir were assumed to remain operational at all times. This assumption is consistent
151 with remarks by Tabucchi et al. (2010), and even though PAHO (1998) mentions examples of tanks and
152 pump stations structurally affected by earthquakes or disconnected temporally from the electric grid, they
153 are significantly less common than damages in pipelines (Tabucchi et al., 2010).

154 To stochastically generate pipe damage scenarios, a Poisson process was used (Shi & O'Rourke, 2006).

155 Therefore, the probability that a pipe was damaged during the earthquake was given by Eq. (1).

$$P(x_i) = 1 - e^{-\lambda_i L_i} \quad (1)$$

156 Where x_i is the event that pipe i is damaged ($i \in \{1, \dots, 6064\}$), L_i is the length of the pipe i in m, and λ_i
157 is the average number of seismic-induced damages per m for that type of pipe. The values of λ_i were
158 assumed as 0.0003 damages/m for pipes with diameter under 300 mm and as 0.00005 damages/m for
159 larger diameter pipes, which is a simplification within the ranges presented by American Lifelines
160 Alliance (2001). This means that the effect of other factors mentioned in the previous studies, like type of
161 soil, pipe material, pipe age, and type of joints, on the probability of damage was assumed homogeneous
162 for all pipes.

163 According to Ballantyne et al. (1990) and Hwang et al. (1998), the damages in pipes can be classified as
164 *leaks*, which are minor damages that can be fixed by installing clamps or welding cracks, and *breaks*,
165 which are more serious damages that require a replacement of entire pipe sections. The conditional
166 probability that a damage was a break was taken as 0.20 for all pipes according to the assumption by
167 HAZUS (NIBS, 1997) for damages generated by propagation of seismic waves:

$$P(y_i | x_i) = 0.20 \quad (2)$$

168 where y_i is the event that pipe i is broken. It is worth mentioning that according to HAZUS method, when
169 the damages are caused by a permanent ground displacement, the probability of a break is considerably
170 higher.

171 After an earthquake disaster, fires are also expected and, therefore, firefighting flows must also be
172 supplied. To include them in the model, two nodes per scenario were randomly selected and assigned a
173 fire flow demand of 35 L/s that would only stop until the delivered/supplied water reached 756 000 L
174 (correspondent to a 6 hr-duration fire if the flow was fully supplied). The number of fire flow nodes was
175 arbitrarily chosen, while the flow rate was suggested by members of the committee.

176 Using these assumptions, a set of five deterministic post-disaster damage scenarios was generated and
177 provided to the participants, and a likelihood based on the probability of the state of each pipe was
178 assigned to each scenario as a weight for the performance evaluation (computed as the logarithm of the
179 normalized product of individual probabilities for the pipes). Figure 2 shows one of the five post-disaster
180 damage scenarios as an example.

181 *Damages modelling*

182 To model the hydraulic effect of damages in the network, an emitter was located at the midpoint of the
183 damaged pipe to simulate its water losses. In order to avoid reverse flows at the emitter (i.e. inflows)
184 caused by negative pressures, a dummy check valve was also included upstream of the emitter. One
185 additional assumption was that breaks in pipes with diameters under 150 mm were assumed to produce a
186 full disconnection between the two ends of the pipe, and, therefore, the two halves of the pipe were
187 modelled as check valves.

188 The emitters used to simulate water losses followed Eq. (3), with Eqs. (4) and (5) for the emitter
189 coefficients (Shi & O'Rourke, 2006):

$$Q_i(t) = K_i \cdot (h_i(t))^{0.5} \quad (3)$$

$$K_i = 0.5m \cdot 0.1^\circ \cdot D_i \cdot \sqrt{2g} \quad \text{for leaks} \quad (4)$$

$$K_i = \frac{\pi}{2} \cdot 0.5^\circ \cdot D_i^2 \cdot \sqrt{2g} \quad \text{for breaks} \quad (5)$$

190 where $Q_i(t)$ is the outflow from the emitter i at time t , $h_i(t)$ is the pressure head at the midpoint of pipe i
191 at time t , D_i is the diameter of pipe i , and K_i is the emitter coefficient that represents a 0.5 m longitudinal
192 crack with an angle of 0.1° for leaks, and a 0.5° round crack for breaks (Figure 3).

193 To consider that not all damages are immediately detected by the water utilities, some of them were
194 considered *non-visible*, meaning that they could not be detected, and therefore fixed, only until some time
195 after the event. Leaks in pipes with a diameter under 300 mm, and breaks in pipes with diameter under
196 150 mm were assumed non-visible unless they reached an outflow higher than 2.5 L/s (values based on
197 the experience of some members of the committee). However, 48 hrs after the event it was assumed that
198 some pressure tests and inspections would be carried out, making all damages visible after that time.
199 Visibility of damages was important from the network restoration point of view (see next section).

200 *Response and network restoration*

201 After the occurrence of an earthquake, the water utility would require some reaction time (assumed 30
202 mins here) before the crews can be dispatched to begin the restoration works. There were assumed to be
203 three crews able to work 24 hours independently of the turns of each worker, and they could perform four
204 basic tasks: *Isolate*, *Repair*, *Replace*, and *Reopen*.

205 Both leaking and broken pipes could be *isolated* by sending a crew to the damage location (even though it
206 is strictly necessary for broken pipes only). It was assumed that the water utility knows the location of all
207 isolation valves in the network and, therefore, isolating a pipe consists of closing all the valves in the
208 hydraulic segment that contains it. Isolation of pipes serves two main purposes: to stop water leaking
209 from the network at a certain damage location, and to dry the pipes in the segment so they can be replaced
210 if required.

211 Leaking pipes must be *repaired*. To repair a leaking pipe, a crew must be sent to the pipe location where
212 they need to locate the leakage, excavate, repair the pipe either with a clamp or by welding, and restore
213 trench conditions. Broken pipes must be *replaced*. To replace a broken pipe, it must first be isolated,
214 excavated, replaced, and trench conditions must be restored (disinfection and pressure tests are assumed
215 to be omitted in an emergency scenario). Finally, an isolation valve could be *reopened* to restore supply to
216 the affected area, once damages were fixed.

217 The time each crew was assumed to take to isolate, repair and replace a pipe is shown in Table 1, where
 218 some simplified relations have been adjusted to the data presented in Porter (2016). Transportation times
 219 and times for reopening of valves are assumed to be included in the figures and expressions shown in
 220 Table 1.

221 Participants were required to propose a prioritization schedule for the three crews, for each scenario,
 222 indicating in which order to isolate, repair or replace damages in the network while following two
 223 restrictions: 1) Only visible damages could be fixed (details on visible/non-visible damages in the
 224 previous section), and 2) Only pipes whose hydraulic segment had been previously isolated could be
 225 replaced. Table 2 shows an example of the schedules given by participant teams.

226

227 **Performance criteria**

228 Since the system is working under low pressure conditions, the pressure driven method by Paez et al.
 229 (2018b) was used to compute nodal supplied flows (Q_i) and compare them with demand (QD_i) as follows:

$$Q_i(p_i) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } p_i \leq 0 & \rightarrow \text{enforced by a Check Valve} \\ QD_i \left(\frac{p_i}{p_{req}} \right)^n & 0 < p_i \leq p_{req} & \rightarrow \text{enforced by a Throttle Control Valve} \\ QD_i & p_i > p_{req} & \rightarrow \text{enforced by a Flow Control Valve} \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

230

231 where p_i is the actual pressure head at node i , and p_{req} is the minimum required pressure head to ensure
232 full supply (assumed 20 m here).

233 The functionality of the system, at a certain time t , is then defined as the percentage of the total demand
234 that is supplied by the network according to the pressure driven model (based on the serviceability index
235 discussed in Shi & O'Rourke, 2006):

$$Functionality(t) = 100\% \cdot \frac{\sum_{\substack{Demand \\ nodes}} Q_i(t)}{\sum_{\substack{Demand \\ nodes}} DQ_i(t)} \quad (7)$$

236 Figure 4 shows the expected behaviour of the functionality as the network gets gradually fixed. Since the
237 demand varies in time, it is likely that the system can fulfill a higher percentage of the demand during
238 nights, while during mornings, when demand increases, the supplied percentage decreases, producing
239 these peaks and troughs in the functionality trend.

240 For each scenario, the schedules proposed by the participants were evaluated according to six main
241 criteria:

- 242 1) Time that the hospitals and the firefighting flows are without supply (*Fire & Hosp.*), calculated as
243 the time-step of the simulation times the number of time steps in which the supply/demand ratio
244 for the hospitals and firefighting flows was less than 0.5:

$$Fire \& Hosp. = \Delta t \cdot \sum_{\substack{\text{Hospitals and} \\ \text{Firefight nodes}}} \text{count}_{t \in T} \{ t \mid Q_i(t)/DQ_i(t) \leq 0.5 \} \quad [min] \quad (8)$$

245 where T is the set of all 15-minute time steps starting on Day 01 at 6:00am and ending at Day 07
 246 at 6:00am and Δt is 15 minutes.

247 2) Time until the system recovers permanently 95% of its functionality (*Rapidity of recovery* – t_{95}),
 248 calculated as the last (maximum) time-step in which the functionality is lower than 95% (see
 249 Figure 4):

$$t_{95} = \max_{t \in T} \{ t \mid Functionality(t) \leq 95\% \} \quad [min] \quad (9)$$

250 3) Accumulated loss of functionality from the occurrence of the disaster until full recovery
 251 (*Resilience Loss*), calculated as the area between the 100% line and the functionality time series
 252 (see Figure 4)

$$Res. Loss = \Delta t \cdot \sum_{t \in T} (100\% - Functionality(t)) \quad [\% * min] \quad (10)$$

253 4) Average time, across demand nodes, each consumer (network node) is without service (*Time no*
 254 *serv.*), calculated by multiplying the time-step and the number of time steps in which the
 255 supply/demand ratio was less than 0.5 for each node, and then dividing by the total number of
 256 demand nodes ($DN = 4201$):

$$Time\ no\ serv. = \frac{\Delta t}{DN} \cdot \sum_{\substack{Demand \\ nodes}} \text{count}_{t \in T} \{ t \mid Q_i(t)/DQ_i(t) \leq 0.5 \} \quad [min] \quad (11)$$

257 5) Number of consumers (network nodes) without service for more than 8 consecutive hours (*Nodes*
 258 *no serv.*), calculated by counting the number of nodes with more than one time-step in which the
 259 next 8 hours had always a supply/demand ratio lower than 0.5:

$$Nodes\ no\ serv. = \text{count}_{\substack{Demand \\ nodes}} \left\{ i \mid \text{count}_{t \in T} \left\{ t \mid \frac{Q_i(t - \Delta t)}{DQ_i(t - \Delta t)} \leq 0.5 \ \forall \Delta t \in (0, 8hrs) \right\} \geq 1 \right\} \quad [nodes] \quad (12)$$

260 6) Volume of water lost during the 7 days after the event (*Water loss*), calculated as the sum of the
 261 outflows across all damages in the network times the time-step:

$$Water\ loss = \Delta t \cdot \sum_{i \in Damages} \sum_{t \in T} Q_i(t) \quad [L] \quad (13)$$

262 Since there were five scenarios, a total of 30 values had to be reported by each team. To assess an
 263 approach, each of the six criteria was averaged amongst the five scenarios using the likelihoods
 264 previously described in the section Damage Scenarios as weights, giving as a result one average
 265 performance per criteria per team.

266 For this version of the Battle, it was a deliberate decision not to provide a unified metric to rank the
 267 solutions. Instead, it was left to the participants' engineering judgment to prioritize the six criteria as they
 268 considered appropriate for the city. This decision was taken by the committee (Franchini, Galelli, Kim,

269 Iglesias-Rey, Kapelan, Saldarriaga, Savic, and Walski) as a way to allow different approaches including
270 non-optimization frameworks in the competition.

271

272 **Post-disaster response and restoration algorithms**

273 Ten teams participated in the BPDRR and submitted their approaches, prioritization schedules, results,
274 and recommendations. This section briefly describes each approach:

275 • Castro-Gama et al. (2018) proposed an implementation based on a preliminary graph theory analysis of
276 the network required to identify neighboring pipes. Second, an ϵ -MOEA algorithm (Deb et al., 2005)
277 from an optimization library for Python: Platypus was used to obtain the Pareto front for the 6 criteria.
278 Decision variables were set as a permutation of the possible interventions. The procedure took into
279 account a constant time of displacement between locations (30 min), which increased the operation time
280 of each crew from the values in Table 1. From the 6D Pareto front, a single solution per scenario was
281 selected based on a Visual Analytics approach (Castro-Gama et al., 2017). The ϵ -MOEA solution was
282 also compared with the one obtained using a greedy algorithm. Both methods showed similar outcomes
283 with different prioritization of interventions, although the latter had the advantage of requiring only 30%
284 of the computational time of the former. Finally, four engineering interventions (to increase/decrease the
285 storage capacity or the pump flow) were evaluated for each selected solution and damage scenario.

286 • Sweetapple et al. (2018) developed an approach based upon graph theory and heuristic methodologies.
287 First, graph theory was used to enable identification of hydraulic segments (Meng et al., 2018) and,
288 subsequently, valve operations required to isolate each pipe break. Next, a single performance indicator
289 incorporating all six objectives was developed to enable the problem to be reformulated as a single
290 objective (assuming equal weights). Lastly, actions (i.e., isolations, replacements and repairs) were
291 allocated to each crew using an adaptation of the ‘nearest neighbour’ algorithm (Cover and Hart, 1967), a
292 ‘greedy optimization heuristic. In this approach, performance was evaluated starting with no actions, and
293 adding subsequent actions. Each new action was assigned to the first crew that finished the previously
294 assigned actions. At each stage, the next action selected was the one that provided the greatest
295 performance benefit (represented by the single objective value), given the specified prior actions and not
296 accounting for future actions.

297 • Zhang et al. (2018) proposed a dynamic optimization framework with the objective function consisting
298 of six different metrics summed by introducing weights. To identify an optimal sequencing of recovery
299 actions for each post-earthquake scenario, a tailored Genetic Algorithms-based optimization algorithm
300 was used, where the algorithm operators were modified to identify the optimal sequencing of recovery
301 actions for post-disaster WDNs. The most important feature of the proposed method was that the total
302 number of the decision variables (damaged segments) and the decision variables themselves (e.g., the
303 pipes that need to be repaired) could both vary when the hydraulic status of the WDN was updated. That

304 updating process was carried out at the completion of each intervention to the post-disaster WDN, and the
305 final sequencing of recovery actions for each crew was identified. The results provided some insights on
306 how to propose an optimal recovery plan. For instance, certain broken pipes were fixed between
307 particular time stamps to avoid negative effects on the service level at some critical locations.

308 • Deuerlein et al. (2018) proposed greedy heuristics to schedule isolation, repairs and replacement by
309 minimizing a weighted sum of the objectives. In the disaster response, the trade-off between water loss
310 and the other criteria was explored. The method used graph decomposition techniques to identify the
311 valves that isolated a hydraulic segment for replacement (Deuerlein 2008). The authors also analysed the
312 network hydraulics and how the depletion of tanks affected service levels. Using these and systematic
313 engineering judgement (Gilbert et al., 2017), recommendations were made for improving the capacity of
314 the system and its absorptive and restorative resilience by design. This included the improvement of
315 pumping stations, installation of control valves and some pipe reinforcement. The same greedy task
316 scheduling algorithm was then used under these alternative network improvements, to evaluate the
317 improvements with respect to all criteria.

318 • Balut et al. (2018) proposed a ranking-based approach where water network pipes' 'importance' was
319 prioritized and applied in a pipe repair schedule. Several approaches to define the importance and create
320 the rankings were proposed, based on hydraulic analyzes (using model under normal operating

321 conditions). Expert knowledge was used, collected via conducted surveys, to define the ‘rankings’.

322 Authors surveyed 46 managers, consultants, IT specialists and water distribution modellers from utilities,

323 asking them to list the main criteria that influenced the sequence of repair scheduling, in their opinion.

324 For each disaster scenario, all types of ‘rankings’ developed (diameter, diameter and distance from the

325 source, diameter and velocity, flow with and without strategic points, impact of pipes’ closure on

326 network’s hydraulics) were applied to schedule tasks for all repair teams. Additionally, experts were also

327 asked in the surveys to assign weights to four criteria that addressed the rapidity of recovery, number of

328 nodes without service and volume of water lost. Results from the rankings were evaluated with use of

329 Visual Promethee – a multicriteria decision aid software, and weights based on the recommendation by

330 the experts. Calculation of hydraulic parameters and evaluation of the final solution based on the six

331 predefined criteria were performed using the Epanet-Matlab toolkit (Eliades et al., 2016).

332 • Li et al. (2018) proposed a two-stage WDN restoration method based on Epanet-Matlab toolkit (Eliades

333 et al., 2016). In the first stage, a shortest path algorithm and greedy algorithm were used to gain the top

334 priority recovery action for a quick response to the disaster. Firstly, Dijkstra algorithm was used to

335 calculate the shortest path from water source to hospital and fire point. The flow could be guaranteed to

336 these locations by repairing the damaged point on the path and closing the valves of the damaged pipeline

337 closest to the path. Then the greedy algorithm was used to obtain the restoration order of the remaining

338 pipes. In the second stage, Particle Swarm Optimization algorithm was used to minimize the total amount
339 of water loss during the restoration process.

340 • Sophocleous et al. (2018) developed a simulation-based response and restoration framework divided
341 into three stages: 1) Pre-Processing, where the possible interventions for each crew were defined together
342 with the time required to complete each intervention, 2) Optimisation, where an optimised schedule for
343 fixing each damage was established using NSGA-II algorithm and a simplified version of weighting
344 objectives, and 3) Restoration Planning, where an action plan (i.e., table of interventions ranked by
345 priority) for each crew was identified using the optimum solution from stage 2. The proposed framework
346 developed a methodology to identify the minimum number of links required to isolate a damaged pipe
347 and enabled simplifying the complexity of the optimisation problem by: 1) solving two sub-problems in
348 sequence (i.e., two-day and seven-day sub-problems, based on the visibility of the damages); and 2)
349 allocating to each crew a particular part of the WDN and a specific number of interventions. This was
350 done through the use of a K-means clustering-based approach (MacQueen, 1967) and engineering
351 judgement (allowing the assumption that in real-life a crew would not be asked to deal with damages
352 spread across the whole network). Simulations were run using the EPANET Programmer's Toolkit linked
353 with the MATLAB optimisation tool.

354 • Santonastaso et al. (2018) adopted a strategy to restore the water service after an earthquake following
355 two phases: 1) identification of hydraulic segments, that provided which valves had to be closed to isolate
356 the pipe that needed to be repaired (Creaco et al., 2010); 2) prioritization of the broken pipes according to
357 a topological metric, based on the idea of primary network (Di Nardo et al., 2017) in order to organize the
358 maintenance interventions after the earthquake. The proposed procedure to rank the pipes to be
359 maintained was stated as follows: 1) compute the betweenness for all pipes in the network; 2) repair or
360 replace leaking or broken pipes with high values of edge betweenness; 3) repeat step 2 until no pipes
361 remain to be replaced or repaired.

362 • Bibok (2018) proposed a two-stage approach to the problem. A criticality analysis of network segments
363 was carried out using Bentley System's WaterGEMS. It highlighted critical segments, of which size could
364 be reduced by installing additional isolation valves. The visible leaks were determined by an initial
365 hydraulic simulation considering the first 30 minutes. In the second stage, the optimization problem was
366 reduced to a sorting task, which was carried out by a sorting genetic algorithm. The algorithm's genome
367 was the ordered list of sequentially executed repair events. A swapping operator during mutation was
368 utilized to preserve the consistency of the visible and non-visible leaks' list.

369 • Salcedo et al. (2018) proposed a decision support model based upon a prioritization methodology
370 described as follows. Initially, a diagnosis of the network was done, including the assessment of the

371 impact of each pipe within the network based on its reliability (Luong & Nagarur, 2005). Then, a
372 prioritization list was developed considering the weighted sum of seven alternative criteria to assign the
373 maintenance activities to each crew. These alternative criteria included the pressure head at hospitals and
374 fire flow nodes, the functionality of the network after rehabilitating a pipe, water losses, and the time
375 needed to rehabilitate each damaged pipe. The weighted list was evaluated at the end of each time step of
376 the simulation using MATLAB and EPANET Programmer's toolkit. Finally, the final weights of the
377 decision model were determined using a sensitivity analysis.

378

379 **Results and discussion**

380 *Algorithm performance*

381 Three main types of approaches can be identified from the submissions. The first type of approach was
382 based on using general-purpose optimization methods, like Multi Objective Evolutionary Algorithm
383 (MOEA), Non-Dominated Sorting Genetic Algorithms (NSGA-II) and Genetic Algorithms (Castro-Gama
384 et al., 2018; Zhang et al., 2018; Sophocleous et al., 2018; Bibok, 2018). In these approaches, the problem
385 was expressed as an optimal sorting task in which the decision variables were the order in which each
386 damage on the network was fixed. The solution space was all possible permutations of the damages, and
387 the objective functions were either the six criteria from Eqs.(8) to (13), a normalized sum of the six

388 criteria (i.e., a single-objective optimization problem), or a combination of normalization and weighting
389 of the six criteria. The normalization references were the computed range of each criterion (defined by the
390 maximum and minimum values found), or a reference value based on an initial solution. The weights, on
391 the other hand, were mostly based on engineering judgment and sense of importance of each criterion
392 after a natural disaster.

393 The second type of approaches was ranking-based prioritizations, in which different metrics were used to
394 define which pipes should be fixed first according to their “importance” (Balut et al., 2018; Santonastaso
395 et al., 2018; Salcedo et al., 2018). In these approaches, one or various metrics to measure how important
396 is a pipe with respect to the criteria were proposed and tested (the number of metrics tested is shown
397 between square brackets in the second column of Table 3). The nature of proposed metrics included
398 hydraulic properties of the pipes, hydraulic consequences of individual damages, and graph theory
399 metrics. The objective functions used to evaluate a metric were: weighted and normalized sum of the six
400 criteria for Balut et al. (2018); a weighted and normalized sum of scores, developed to simplify
401 computation of the six criteria, for Salcedo et al. (2018); and the six given criteria for Santonastaso et al.
402 (2018).

403 Finally, the third type of approaches was based on algorithms that made local optimum choices aiming to
404 find near-optimal solutions (Sweetapple et al., 2018; Deuerlein et al., 2018; Li et al., 2018). In these

405 approaches, that could be viewed as greedy algorithms, an objective function was defined either as a
406 weighted and normalized sum of the six criteria, or as one of the six criteria depending on the stage of the
407 optimization. Then, starting at the initial time of the simulation, all possible actions (damage fixing) were
408 evaluated, and the one(s) that produced the highest marginal gain in the objective function were selected
409 to be carried out. That process was repeated every time an action was completed until no more actions
410 remained. It is worth noting that Li et al. (2018) used this third type of approach in a first stage of their
411 optimization, followed by an application of a metaheuristic (Particle Swarm Optimization - PSO).

412 Table 3 summarizes the reported results for the six criteria, averaged amongst the five damage scenarios
413 (using the likelihoods as weights), for each team. The top three performance values for each criterion are
414 underlined, with the best performance highlighted with a double underline.

415 Figure 5 presents graphically the results of each team in each criterion compared with the average
416 amongst all teams. Values outside the black dotted line (average), outperformed the average of the ten
417 teams. It is important to note that three teams (Zhang et al., 2018; Deuerlein et al., 2018; Salcedo et al.,
418 2018), one from each type of approach, had all six criteria outperforming against the average (all their
419 areas are outside the average circle), showing that all three approaches have potential in solving the
420 response and restoration challenge.

421 *Participants' remarks*

422 Participants were also encouraged to suggest some mitigation measures that the city could take in order to
423 improve the response and restoration process for other possible scenarios. One factor that almost all
424 participants seemed to agree, was that installing more isolation valves would reduce the size of the
425 hydraulic segments, and therefore reduce the impact on the supply of the isolations required to replace a
426 broken pipe.

427 Castro-Gama et al. (2018) also evaluated the effect of increasing or decreasing the storage and pumping
428 capacity in the network, and found that increasing the storage and pumping capacity reduces the initial
429 impact of the event (before the interventions), but once the fixing schedule is optimized, there is little
430 improvement in the performance criteria. Sweetapple et al. (2018) evaluated the effect of the
431 disconnection of all hydraulic segments in the network and suggested the separation of the most upstream
432 segment to avoid having both the tank T1 and the reservoir isolated simultaneously in case pipe damage
433 or a contaminant intrusion occurred in that segment. Li et al. (2018) used pipe damage statistics of the real
434 Wenchuan earthquake in 2008 to suggest pipeline renewals to avoid concrete and gray iron pipes which
435 seemed to be more vulnerable to this kind of events, while increasing the pipe burial depths to reduce pipe
436 displacement. Finally, Bibok (2018) suggested running in advance combinations of simultaneous
437 hydraulic segments isolation to reduce in advance search space and ease the computation of
438 recommended schedules once the event occurs.

439 *General observations*

440 After analysing the results and recommendations of all participants, the main insights are summarized as
441 follows:

442 • All six criteria used to evaluate performance of solutions (Eqs.(8) to (13)) were defined as desirable
443 objectives of a response and restoration method, and as metrics that would contribute to better understand
444 the consequences of extreme seismic events. However, the fact that only one out of ten teams used a
445 multi-objective optimization approach using the six criteria, would suggest that it is necessary to prioritize
446 some of them, with engineering judgment, according to the perspective and policies of the city, in order to
447 make it a mathematically tractable problem that actually provides suitable solutions.

448 • Different types of approaches presented in this Battle have all potential to find satisfactory solutions to
449 the problem. The use of metaheuristics requires in general more computational effort and, therefore, are
450 useful to develop, in advance, plans to react in the moment a disaster occurs. Greedy algorithms are, in
451 general, fast enough to be run at the moment a disaster occurs, making use of that reaction time
452 mentioned before and adapting to new information on damages easily. Finally, ranking-based approaches
453 are straightforward and quick to use, allowing an almost immediate reaction and an instantaneous
454 reordering when given updated information but, unlike optimization-based approaches, rely on subjective,
455 expert generated list of intervention options to consider.

456 •The run times for the participants' solutions were not reported as it was not a requirement for the
457 submission (in order to allow the use of any available resource and technique), but the computational
458 requirements of metaheuristic algorithms were mentioned by some participants as a drawback for this
459 type of approach. As explained by Castro-Gama et al. (2018), the use of alternatives like greedy
460 algorithms can reduce the computational time to a 30% of the time required by metaheuristics. However,
461 the potential use of parallelization is expected to make the use of this type of optimization algorithms
462 more suited and faster in future.

463 • Figure 6 shows the average *Res. Loss* among all participants versus the range of diameters of broken
464 pipes in each scenario. It also shows how, for this particular network, the WDN gets more affected in its
465 functionality by the size of the largest broken pipe, rather than by the number of breaks in the scenario.
466 For example, Scenario 05 has ten more pipe breaks than Scenario 03, but since Scenario 03 has a 250mm
467 pipe broken, it has on average higher resilience loss than Scenario 05 which has all its breaks in pipes
468 with diameters under 200mm.

469 • One important factor that drives the resilience of the WDN to these emergency scenarios is the location
470 of isolation valves and the size of hydraulic segments relative to affected areas. All participants agree that
471 having more isolation valves would reduce the impact of repairs and replacement works in the supply.

472 • On average, the interruptions in the supply to emergencies (hospitals and firefighters) was 17.5 hrs,
473 although considerable variability was seen between participants and scenarios (in some scenarios, some
474 participants were able to maintain continuous water supply to the emergency nodes, while in other cases
475 the interruption accumulated nearly 72 hrs). Since most of that demand occurred in hospitals, this
476 suggests the need to install or increase their private storage to autonomously cope with their demand for
477 longer periods of time.

478 • The Functionality time series follows a peaks-and- troughs shape driven by the highs and lows of
479 diurnal water demand in the system. Figure 7 shows an example of a functionality time series (Scenario
480 01 by Zhang et al., 2018) as well as the demand time series. During evenings, the supplied water was
481 more closely matched to the demands, while during mornings and noontime, the effects of the damages
482 and the ongoing repair work were more noticeable. Additionally, water stored in the tanks offered an
483 initial cushion on the functionality, which allowed full supply of the demand during the first few hours
484 after the event.

485 • Regarding the criteria used to evaluate the performance of each team, a correlation analysis allowed to
486 identify that only the pair $t_{95} - Res. Loss$ has a strong positive correlation (0.92), suggesting that
487 algorithms that minimize one, would indirectly minimize the other. This was difficult to know in advance,
488 but it would indicate that in an optimization framework, only five objective functions were necessary to

489 solve the challenge. All other computed correlations were below 0.55, with negative values for the four
490 pairs between *Nodes no serv.* or *Water Loss*, and t_{95} or *Res. Loss*.

491 • A Pareto ranking of the ten teams showed that six solutions were non-dominated (Castro-Gama et al.,
492 2018; Zhang et al., 2018; Deuerlein et al., 2018; Li et al., 2018; Bibok, 2018; and Salcedo et al., 2018),
493 with Salcedo et al. (2018) dominating three of the four other solutions, followed by Zheng et al. (2018)
494 dominating two, and Deuerlein et al. (2018) and Castro-Gama et al. (2018) dominating one.

495 • To evaluate the robustness of the approaches, the standard deviation across the five scenarios was
496 computed for each criterion and each team. Figure 8 compares the standard deviations with the averages
497 (an ideal approach would be closer to the bottom-left corner indicating good average performance and
498 low variability in its results). It can be seen that generally, teams with good performance in a criterion
499 (small average value) also had a small standard deviation in that criterion, indicating that their approaches
500 are also robust (with consistently good results for all five scenarios). Exceptions to this remark are mostly
501 in the Resilience Loss criteria, where teams a), f) and c) (Castro-Gama et al., 2018; Li et al., 2018; and
502 Zhang et al., 2018), in that order, had comparatively good average performances, but with high variation
503 between scenarios.

504 • The coefficients of variation for the six criteria were computed (across the ten teams). The *Nodes no*
505 *serv.*, the *Fire & Hosp.*, and the *Time no serv.* were, in that order, the criteria with highest variability,
506 which would suggest that these might be criteria more difficult to attain.

507

508 **Conclusions**

509 The paper summarizes the competition challenge and the results of the Battle of Post-Disaster Response
510 and Restoration (BPDRR) held in Kingston, Ontario in July 2018, as part of the 1st International
511 WDSA/CCWI Joint Conference. Participants in the BPDRR were tasked with identifying the best
512 strategies to respond and restore water service following five hypothetical earthquake scenarios. A total of
513 ten teams developed approaches that fell into three broad categories of metaheuristic methods, ranking-
514 based prioritization methods, and near-optimal optimization methods. Six performance criteria were used
515 to evaluate the solutions of the ten teams and they included: 1) Time without supply for
516 hospital/ firefighting, 2) Rapidity of recovery, 3) Resilience loss, 4) Average time of no user service, 5)
517 Number of users without service for 8 consecutive hours, and 6) Water loss.

518 The key findings from the Battle are summarized as follows:

519 • Even though, the six performance measures taken together were used to characterize the appropriateness
520 of the response and restoration solutions, the positive correlation found between some of the criteria
521 suggests that in an optimization framework it might not be necessary to include all of them.

522 • All three categories of approaches proved to be appropriate to find satisfactory response and restoration
523 solutions despite important differences in computational requirements between approaches.
524 Metaheuristics, on one hand, seem to be suitable to develop plans beforehand the occurrence of the event,
525 as their computational cost limits their application during reaction times. Greedy algorithms, on the other
526 hand, are faster to compute and can also adapt easily to new available information, making them more
527 applicable in the case of an emergency. Finally, ranking-based approaches condense expert knowledge
528 and intuitive criteria to suggest swiftly the recommended interventions to follow.

529 • The location of isolation valves and the size of hydraulic segments relative to areas affected was found
530 to drive the operational resilience of the system. This highlights the importance of having an adequate
531 location and mapping of isolation valves, as well as a regular maintenance to keep them operational in
532 this disaster scenarios.

533 • The average period of interruption to water supply for hospitals and firefighting flows was 17.5 hrs and
534 varied considerably between participants and emergency scenarios. This highlights the importance of
535 private water storage for emergency response entities.

536 • Tank storage helped to preserve functionality in the network but only in the first few hours after an
537 emergency event. This may be specific for the system analysed, i.e. other WDN may be able to provide
538 water for longer periods of time.

539 One important point to mention is that extending the results and conclusions of this Battle to practise
540 requires that the list of assumptions remains valid in the specific systems. This implies that utilities need
541 to have updated models of their networks, with good mapping of their isolation valves, and with trained
542 crews that can perform the required tasks in periods close to the assumed. Moreover, they need to keep
543 sufficient resources and parts to fix the damages and communicate efficiently with their crews. Only then,
544 a risk assessment and evaluation of alternatives based on the methods presented in this competition
545 should be performed.

546

547 **Future research**

548 • One aspect that was not explored further was the demand variation that can occur after an earthquake.
549 Depending on the magnitude of the event, commercial and industrial demands can be affected since some
550 businesses would close temporarily while normal conditions are re-established.

551 • Similarly to the previous point, other important simplification for the problem was not to consider
552 damages to other network elements (e.g., pumps, tanks). Power grids energizing the pumping stations and

553 generators may also be damaged during an earthquake. Communication networks that might be used for
554 monitoring and control operations can also be affected in such scenarios. The effect of this type of
555 damages, as well as their probability of occurrence, and the times to fix them, are worth further
556 investigation.

557 • The relationship between demand and functionality (Figure 7) suggests that there can be better and
558 worst times to fix damages, specially breaks that require isolation, and therefore might be good to explore
559 idle times for crews where they do not fix anything and wait until a low demand time, as noted by Bibok
560 (2018).

561 • The impact of catastrophic events such as an earthquake may have a more profound impact on the water
562 quality which needs to be explored further. If this is the case, then partial water supply during the
563 restoration may be of use for specific water uses only (e.g. toilet flushing) and additional measures may
564 have to be considered (e.g. supply of bottled water).

565 • Usually, important earthquakes produce collapse of buildings and roads, making some streets unfit due
566 to rubbles. These aspects affect mobility and possibility of working of the crews activated for repairing
567 water pipes. These aspects were not considered in the current Battle but might have a significant impact
568 on actual restoring and repairing actions.

569 • The simplification of transportation times in Table 1 can not apply in many real cases, specially large
570 cities, as fixing two close damages can be less time consuming than fixing two very separate damages.
571 Future studies could attempt to discard this simplification.

572 • Other practical assumptions made in the competition included the full availability of spare parts and
573 resources to conduct the interventions to all damages. However, this might not be the case in many cities,
574 and therefore, the impact of limited/unavailable resources on the problem could be explored in future.

575 • Smart water technologies, such as pressure sensors, hydrophones and flow meters (Hill et al., 2014),
576 provide a large amount of information on the state of a WDN. Going forward, it would be interesting to
577 understand how these data could aid water utilities in the design of response solutions to earthquakes as
578 well as other catastrophic events.

579 • Recent Battles have focussed on various events that strongly threaten the performance of a WDN, such
580 as contamination events (Ostfeld et al., 2008), cyber-physical attacks (Taormina et al., 2018), or
581 earthquakes (BPDRR). While these Battles provide enhanced understanding on the performance of
582 engineering solutions to specific events, there seems to be a lack of knowledge on how these solutions
583 should be merged and implemented into joint contingency plans.

584 • Due to organizational limitations, this Battle used a disclosed/open set of five scenarios used by the
585 participant teams to develop, adjust and evaluate their approaches, instead of a bigger, concealed set of

586 predefined scenarios to be tested after the submission of their methods/algorithms. This implies that some
587 methodologies might not have been oriented to a generic solution of the problem, but to the specific
588 solution of these five scenarios. Future research in the topic could benefit from using *training scenarios* to
589 feedback and adjust the approaches, and *test scenarios* to evaluate the approaches' actual performance.

590

591 **Data Availability Statement**

592 Some or all data, models, or code generated or used during the study, including the EPANET models and
593 the results for each team, are available from the corresponding author by request
594 (da.paez270@gmail.com). Additionally, requests regarding code used by the participants to solve the
595 problem will be directed by the corresponding author to the developers of the code.

596

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Table 1. Tasks duration times per pipe

Task	Duration time per pipe
Isolate	15 min/valve
Repair*	$0.223 \cdot D_i^{0.577}$
Replace*	$0.156 \cdot D_i^{0.719}$

* D_i in mm and resulting times in hours (rounded to the lowest hour)

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Table 2. Example of prioritization schedule

Crew	List of tasks (ordered chronologically)
Crew 01	Isolate P136 Isolate P283 Repair P206 Replace P152 Repair P242 ⋮
Crew 02	Isolate P367 Isolate P152 Replace P367 Replace P136 Repair P154 ⋮
Crew 03	Isolate P105 Replace P105 Repair P254 Repair P221 Isolate P133 ⋮

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Table 3. Performance of participant teams in the six defined criteria

Team	Algorithm	Optimization / Ranking criteria	Fire & Hosp. (min)	t_{95} (min)	Res. Loss (%*min)	Time no serv. (min)	Nodes no serv. (nodes)	Water Loss. (ML)
Castro-Gama et al. (2018)	Platypus ϵ -MOEA	6 (Original criteria)	1411	4094	13271	<u>38.8</u>	<u>17.9</u>	67 760
Sweetapple et al. (2018)	Nearest Neighbor Search	1 (Weighted and normalized original criteria)	365	5154	15472	<u>49.6</u>	90.0	79 982
Zhang et al. (2018)	Improved Genetic Algorithm	1 (Weighted and normalized original criteria)	<u>147</u>	<u>3106</u>	<u>10195</u>	64.1	<u>28.6</u>	<u>60 380</u>
Deuerlein et al. (2018)	Greedy Alg.	1 (Weighted relative increase of 5 original criteria)	301	<u>3918</u>	<u>13250</u>	54.4	140.3	<u>57 278</u>
Balut et al. (2018)	Pipe/Damage rankings [x 6] + Expert survey	1 (Weighted and normalized original criteria)	3396	5184	25988	79.4	212.1	66 580
Li et al. (2018)	Greedy Alg. + PSO	1 (<i>Fire & Hosp.</i> for stage 1 and <i>Res. Loss</i> for stage 2)	1532	<u>3902</u>	<u>13574</u>	364.7	818.0	<u>56 624</u>
Sophocleous et al. (2018)	NSGA-II	1 (Normalized original criteria)	2528	9510	42129	86.5	37.6	94 116
Santonastaso et al. (2018)	Pipe/Damage ranking [x 1]	6 (Original criteria)	315	4845	16958	50.0	104.9	77 881
Bibok (2018)	Genetic Algorithm	1 (Normalized original criteria)	<u>234</u>	4638	15944	216.6	<u>8.4</u>	73 923
Salcedo et al. (2018)	Pipe/Damage rankings [x 5+]	1 (Weighted and normalized modified criteria)	<u>270</u>	4471	14235	<u>46.0</u>	35.6	66 799
AVERAGE			1050	4882	18102	105.0	149.3	70 132

Note: Entries underlined represent the top three values for each criterion. MOEA: Multi Objective Evolutionary Algorithm. PSO: Particle Swarm Optimization. NSGA-II: Non-Sorted Genetic Algorithm.

Figure 1. B-City water distribution network. Dotted lines delimit DMAs and “H” represents the hospitals.

Figure 2. Damage scenario 01. Breaks highlighted in red, leaks highlighted in yellow, and fire-flows marked with an “F”.

Figure 3. Schematic representation of breaks and leaks.

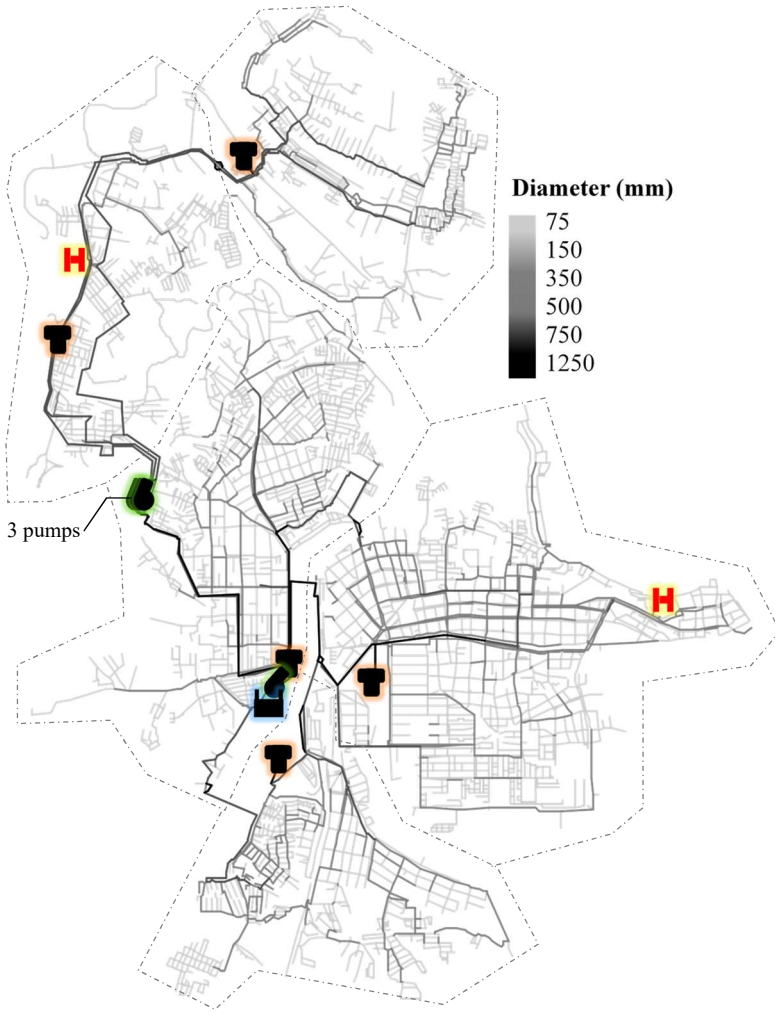
Figure 4. Time variation of Functionality as the system is gradually fixed.

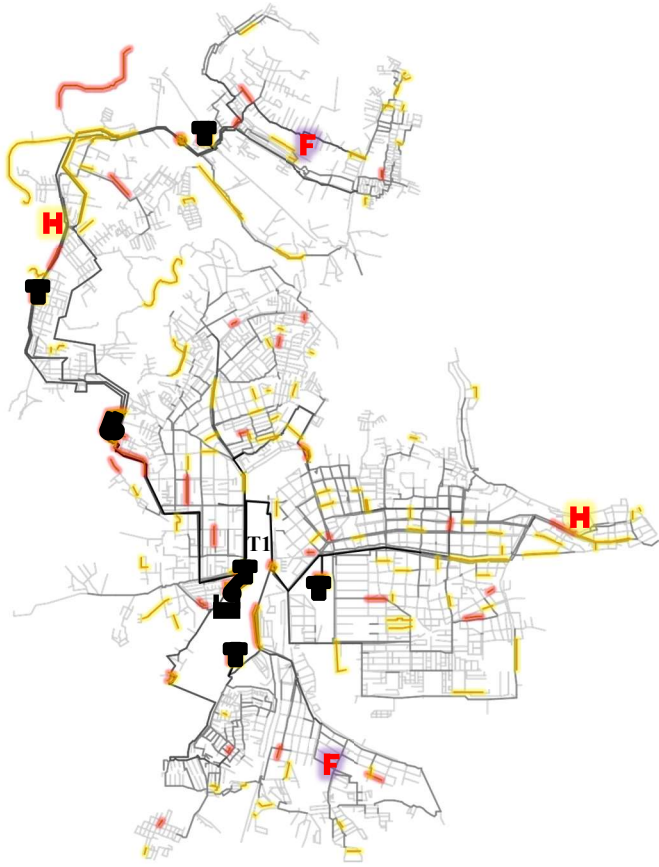
Figure 5. Performance comparison of each team with respect to the average (black dotted line). Better performance indicated by larger green areas. a) Results from Castro-Gama et al. (2018); b) Results from Sweetapple et al. (2018); c) Results from Zhang et al. (2018); d) Results from Deuerlein et al. (2018); e) Results from Balut et al. (2018); f) Results from Li et al. (2018); g) Results from Sophocleous et al. (2018); h) Results from Santonastaso et al. (2018); i) Results from Bibok (2018); j) Results from Salcedo et al. (2018).

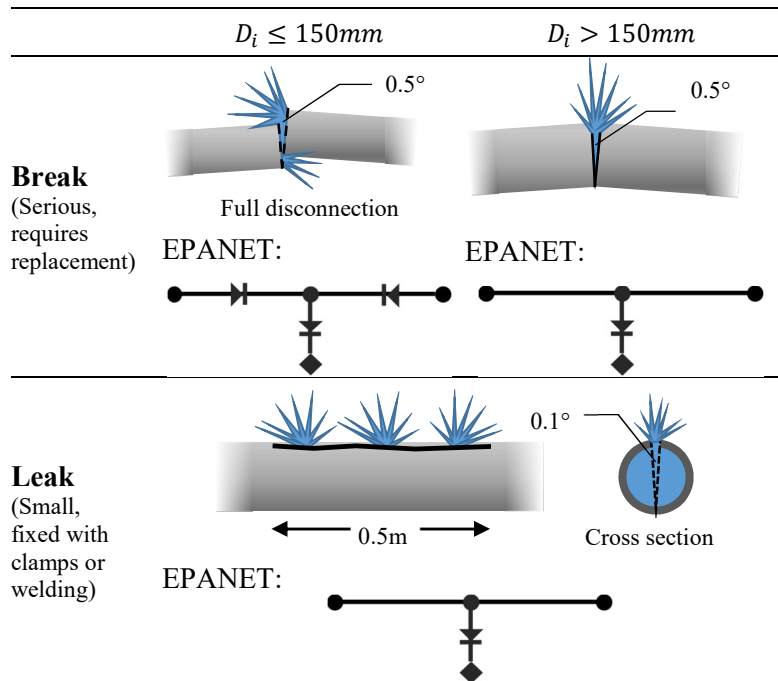
Figure 6. Average Resilience Loss vs. Pipe breaks range per damage scenario

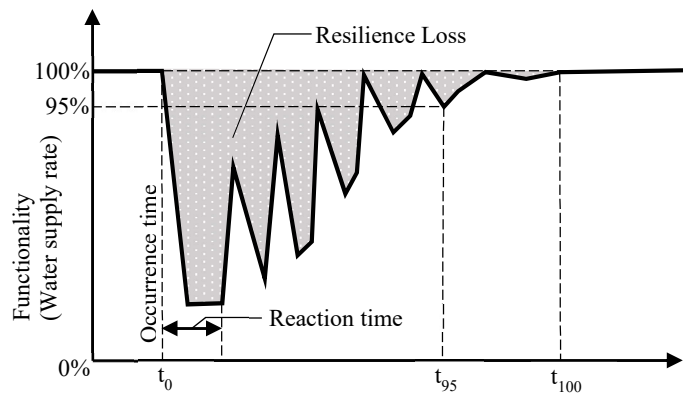
Figure 7. Functionality time series for Scenario 01 by Zhang et al. (2018)

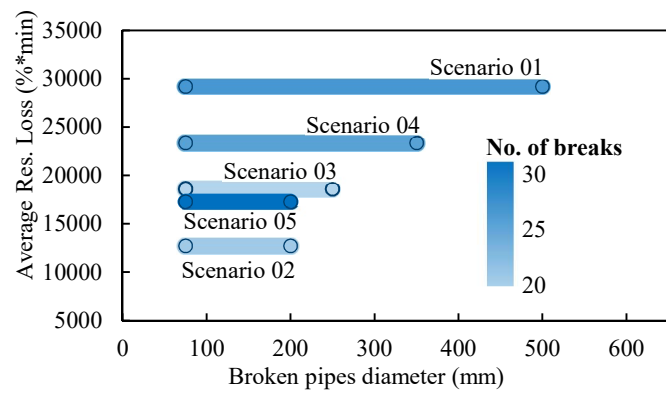
Figure 8. Average and Standard Deviation per criteria per team.

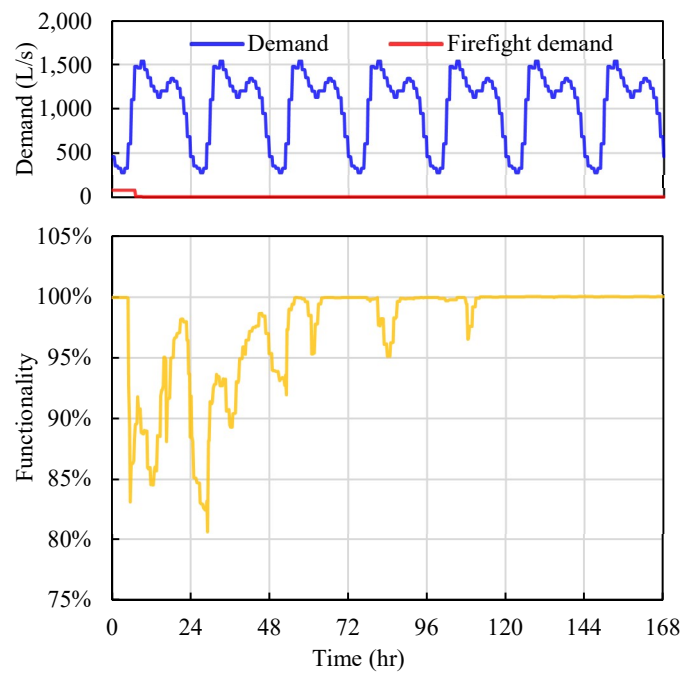


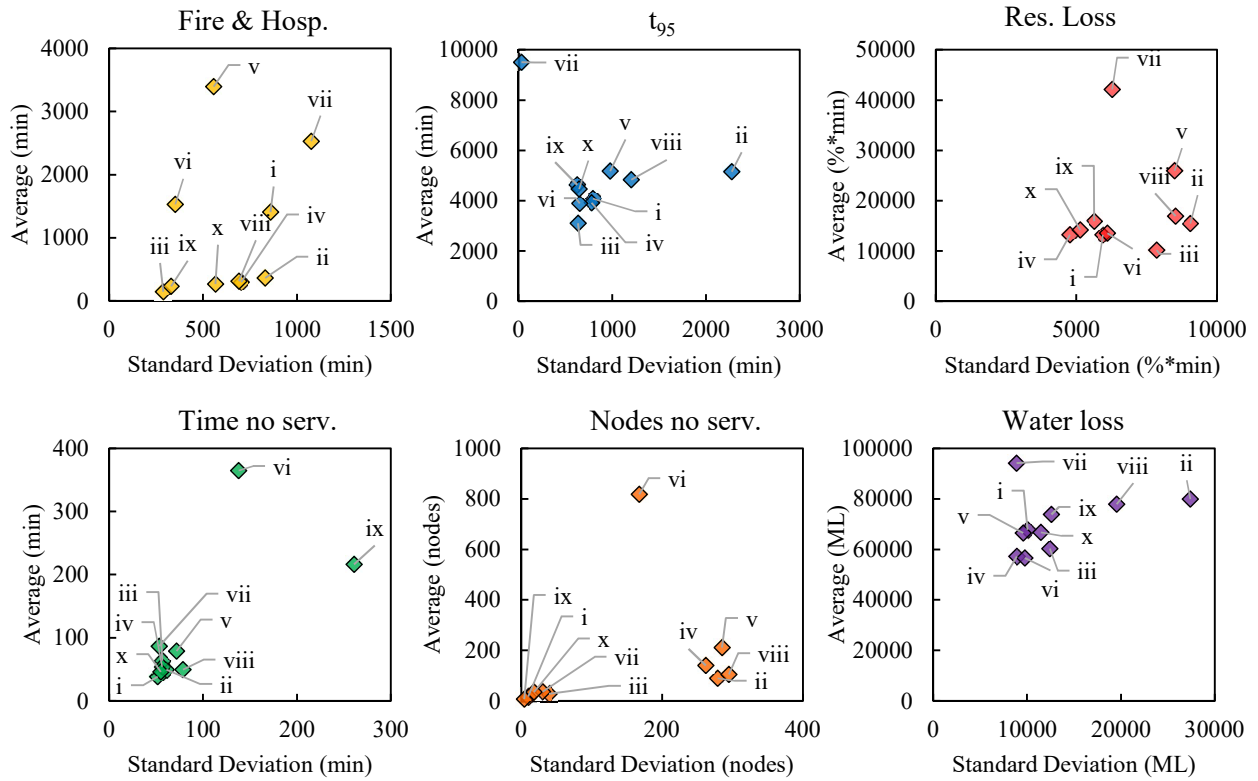












i. Castro-Gama et al. (2018) ii. Sweetapple et al. (2018) iii. Zhang et al. (2018) iv. Deuerlein et al. (2018) v. Balut et al. (2018)
vi. Li et al. (2018) vii. Sophocleous et al. (2018) viii. Santonastaso et al. (2018) ix. Bibok (2018) x. Salcedo et al. (2018).