

Project Proposal

Enhancing situational awareness is of great importance for disaster response and recovery. Information shared on social media greatly enhance time-critical situational awareness by not only spreading the news about casualties and damages, rescue efforts and alerts but also providing on-topic information for disaster-affected population and first responders who may benefit from such information. Understanding tweet messages is challenging since they are short and informal, especially in disasters when identifying timely relevant information is critical. The problem in this project is trying to figure out if a user's tweet indicates if a disaster is taking place somewhere or not. The task is to let the machine learn to predict efficiently the nature of the tweet either disastrous or not.

Developing a classifier that more strongly weighs relevant reviews using NLP methods could help solve this problem. This is an invaluable method because, if successful, it will be extremely generalizable. The possibilities are limitless and hold great potential for identification of disaster tweets efficiently.