Info Challenge Abstract

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We collected information about Hurricane Florence from the date ranges September 9th, 2018 to September 16th, 2018, and Hurricane Dorian from the date ranges August 29th, 2019 to September 6th, 2019. The information was collected proportionally according to how popular the search appeared in Google Trends data for that keyword. We collected this information from social media (Twitter, Facebook) and news outlet sources. This information was stored in a spreadsheet that is coded by the Incident Status Summary (ICS) number, the fact or piece of information collected, the date, the time, and the platform. With this data, we plan to create daily summaries, by tracking what kinds of information are most likely to occur at what point in the hurricane. For example, we expect to see more predictions before the hurricane and weather concerns throughout, whereas after the hurricane we predict to see more Damage Assessment Information and Responder Statuses. We also want to see what platforms had more information at what points in the hurricane, and if there were differences between the hurricanes. We also want to see if there is a change in useful information over time and if there is any information missing. Data analysis will be conducted in Google Sheets, Python and/or R and visualizations/summary tables will be shown and presented on Saturday. These daily summaries can serve as tools for emergency professionals and the public to discern where to look for information before, during, and after a hurricane.