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THE EVOLVING ROLES OF EMERGENCY MANAGERS

ISTANBUL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY DISASTER SUMMIT

DECEMBER 27, 2010

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- Evolving Roles of Emergency Managers
- How the Profession is advancing
- Acquiring Professional Certification

- More complex disasters
- Role of an emergency manager evolved
- Heightened expectations

- Civil Defence – to a discipline of its own
- Understanding what emergency managers do
- Promoting the mandate through elevated visibility and credibility

1950s - reactive and response focused, autocratic management philosophy

1970's – few full time, add-on or part-time responsibility to overburdened emergency response officials

Late 1980's and 1990's – role changed because of the enormous devastating impacts of major disasters

In spite of all of the efforts to date, the emergency manager's role "is neither easily performed nor well understood. Nor is it a readily accepted role in many local jurisdictions" today.

Kreps, G. (1991). Organizing for emergency management. In T. E. Drabek & G. J. Hoetmer (Eds.), *Emergency management: Principles and practice for local government*. Washington, DC: International City Management Association, p. 49.

- Emergency managers focusing on resiliency strategies and risk management
- Role needs to be ‘overhauled’ include sustainable development and broader strategic initiatives and holistic approach
- Need to understand how governments, organizations, and communities function

Researchers contended that in the wake of 9/11, emergency management in recent years has focused too much on the risk of terrorism with the re-emergence of ‘*command and control*,’ which has resulted in diminished attention paid to natural and manmade disasters.

- Education and knowledge are necessary factors in the evolution
- There is a need for a formal education process and an intentional exposure to emergency management theory and concepts

Emergency managers are largely trained based on apprenticeship and practice without certification and regard for disaster-research publications from the scientific community.

- More complicated, highly specialized
- More complex career field requiring professional skills and interpersonal skills
- Facing problems today that “we have seldom before confronted”
- Becoming its own discipline, and career of 1st choice by newly educated professionals who are interested in certification

“The process of professionalization has been accompanied by the formation of organizations and associations concerned with the training of and awarding credentials to emergency management specialists, the development of specialized publications, and the spread of professional meetings and training”.

Mileti, D. (1999) *Disasters by design: A reassessment of natural hazards in the United States*. Washington, DC: Joseph Henry Press, p. 228.

Emergency management may be recognized as a mature profession with a clear identity, its own principles, a common body of knowledge, and a narrowing gap between practitioners and the research community.

IAEM to be recognized as the premier international organization of emergency management professionals.

- Established in 1952, 58 years ago
- 5,000+ members in 58 countries
- Non-profit educational organization
- Promotes the goals of saving lives and protecting property during disasters and emergencies

- Governed by a Global Board of Directors
 - Global Board Chair Rick Cox, CEM®
- Global Board is comprised of reps from each of the 7 Councils:
 - IAEM USA
 - IAEM Asia
 - IAEM Europe
 - IAEM International
 - IAEM Oceania
 - IAEM Canada
 - IAEM Student

- CEM® began in January, 1993
- CEM® Commission consists of 19 well-respected professionals
- The CEM® Program is the only ***internationally*** recognized certification for emergency managers.
- Associate Emergency Manager

- Elevate the visibility of emergency managers
- Encourage and mandate continued professional development, education and technical skills
- Ensure minimal **knowledge**, **skills** and **abilities** (KSAs)

<http://www.iaem.com/documents/AboutIAEM-Turkish.pdf>

IAEM ve CEM®/ AEM
Sertifikasyonu

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QUESTIONS

THANK YOU!!!