



Confluence serves as an intersection where we share events, interests, and important information about our Center and the state's all-hazard emergency management pathway programs.

JUNE 2019 EDITION VOL. 13



## HAPPY PRIDE MONTH!

### *Emergency Preparedness and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender (LGBT) People*

Every June, the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transsexual (LGBT) community commemorates the Stonewall riots that occurred at the end of June in 1969 with pride events. The month of Pride is to recognize the history and impact the LGBT community has had on the world, while also creating a positive stance against discrimination and violence. Pride promotes and helps to increase LGBT peoples' visibility as a social group, celebrate diversity and genders, along with continuing to fight for their equal rights.

### **What does all of this have to do with emergency management and disaster preparedness?**

During a natural disaster or a public health emergency, health centers will often become a key resource for people. Planning and preparedness for any emergency disaster is vital to any organization. "Before an emergency strikes, it is important for health centers to consider the unique needs and circumstances of vulnerable populations, including LGBT individuals and families in the community." (Emergency Preparedness and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered (LGBT) People: What Health Centers Need to Know, 2019).

Unfortunately, LGBT people have to deal with certain challenges during an emergency. For instance, there is a high rate of homelessness for LGBT youth, which can make it more difficult to reach them prior and/or during an emergency. Seniors in the LGBT community tend to be more isolated, less likely to have children or other family members around. This can put them at a disadvantage when it comes to assistance during emergency disaster, or being able to obtain resources.

### **How can these challenges be dealt with?**

For starters, health care centers and other organizations that deal with emergency disasters should include the LGBT community when formulating emergency preparedness plans. Reaching out to the LGBT community and its leaders is a great way to begin the process of collaborating. It is important to create an environment for LGBT people that is inclusive and feel safe to seek assistance during a time of need. "Organizations should implement inclusive practices and policies (e.g., gender identity and sexual orientation non-discrimination policies; inclusion of transgender identities and same-sex relationships on registration forms, etc.)" (Emergency Preparedness and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered (LGBT) People: What Health Centers Need to Know, 2019). Every member of a vulnerable population deserves to receive the help needed during an emergency disaster. It is crucial for emergency management organization to understand the makeup of communities' vulnerable population and the needs that must be met in order to successfully accommodate people in a time of need.

Source:

<https://www.lgbthealtheducation.org/wp-content/uploads/Emergency-Preparedness-for-LGBT-People-Final.pdf>

# GOAL • PLAN • SUCCESS

## Collaborating College Model

### Student Success Story



Lyle Knigge is a student in the Pierce College HSEM BAS program who is completing the program through Big Bend Community College. He started his time at Big Bend Community College in 2014 and then after a break and some soul searching came back, found the HSEM program, a natural fit for his background, and intended career path.

Lyle served 5 ½ years in the Navy, as an Aviation Boatswain's Mate: Handler (ABH3, Flight Deck). Based on his experiences he knew that he was much more minded towards disaster response, recovery, and emergency management than a career in Criminal Justice. With the

establishment of the collaborating colleges' model with the Pierce College HSEM program, it allowed Lyle and students like him to get training locally so he could still stay in his desired area.

Recently and due to his training in HSEM, he has become a part of Team Rubicon, a veterans-based organization that works specifically in the areas of disaster management, debris removal/home repair, and disaster assessment in the United States. Internationally Team Rubicon does medical response teams, they are the first and only volunteer organization to receive the World Health Organization (WHO) verification. Team Rubicon has an incredible team mindset that continues much of the comradery and mission-oriented focus that allows veteran's to really thrive. In the short time he has been working for Team Rubicon, he has been deployed to assist in Wilmington, NC for Hurricane Florence, Panama City, FL for Hurricane Michael and Port Orchard, WA for the Tornado in December 2018. Lyle has been trained as a Sawyer 1, Logistic Section Chief (LSC), and Ground Support Unit (GSU) Lead. Lyle was the GSU for Hurricane Michael in FL and the LSC for the Port Orchard, WA tornado. Lyle is currently the City Logistics Coordinator for Tri-Cities, WA.

The collaborating colleges' model allows students to get the education they need and participate in the field in the areas in the state they want to live in. The collaborating colleges' model originated through the work done in the Center of Excellence.



## Women of Justice 2019 Forum a Success!

The Women of Justice Forum in spring 2019 was a great success. This is the second Women of Justice Forum the Criminal Justice program at Pierce College has put on. There is a YouTube video from both this, and last year. This year's forum was student run with department support. The CJ program had many volunteers and with its only complaint was that the room was too small for the 250ish people in attendance. (Talk about the type of complaints we want!)

[Women of Justice 2019: eLearning Pierce College Live Stream](#)  
[Women of Justice: Pierce County Superior Court Justice - Hon. G. Helen Whitener - 2018](#)  
[Women of Justice Panel - 2018](#)

## It's here! Register for August 12-13 PNW EMPA Disaster & Emergency Communication Conference!

Location: **Smith Ballroom, Portland State University, Portland, Oregon**

Who? – EMPA joins the Pacific Northwest

Local and global events almost daily highlight the need for effective communication to inform and inspire the listener to make the decisions they need, quickly and comprehensively to save life, protect property and reputation.

The nonprofit Emergency Media & Public Affairs (EMPA) is the only international, representative organization of emergency service and disaster communication practitioners in the world.

In 2006, three Australian Public Information professionals, having endured a devastating tropical cyclone response, put their heads together determined to learn from the lessons each identified. Over a decade later, the EMPA ethos of sharing where we fall down, how we help each other back up to better serve our communities continues to grow.

This year EMPA leaves its Australian and New Zealand shores to come to Portland, where the innovative and 'weird' idea is the root for growth! The organization is excited to exchange practical, proven means of communicating through critical situations. Frameworks and lessons actually learned will be shared to stimulate thinking, encourage conversation and create change.

EMPA works to fund research on disaster communication, community response and recovery. Thanks to Portland State University, this year EMPA will have the opportunity to join up expert practitioners, researchers, front line responders, industry, officials and executives toward mutual growth.

How do we use strategic management of public safety and warning messages, public information, education and interaction for comprehensive communication with residents, stakeholders and lifeline organizations critical to the resilience and safety of our communities?

Please join EMPA for this unique opportunity to share what we do well, where we can improve and different perspectives on "getting it right, growing it better!"

What includes:

- Local and international speakers presenting practical experiences
  - Scenario-based workshop each day to put ideas into practice
  - Solution-focused panels and interactive sessions
  - Conference welcome dinner
- Who should attend? You!

Anyone responsible for or interested in Emergency Information management and its effect on their organization and their community. Examples include:

- Public Information Officers
- Agency Representatives
- Community Engagement Officers
- Response and Recovery Agencies
- First Responder Services
- Elected Officials
- Media Managers and Liaisons
- Public or Civil Affairs
- Editors
- Journalists
- Risk Management
- Crisis Communication
- Emergency Management
- Public Relations
- Local Emergency Planning Committee Members
- Educators

Source:

[https://empa.org.au/images/pnw/PNW\\_EM\\_PA\\_Disaster\\_and\\_Emergency\\_Communication\\_Conference\\_Informational.pdf](https://empa.org.au/images/pnw/PNW_EM_PA_Disaster_and_Emergency_Communication_Conference_Informational.pdf)

Registration is available through Portland State University:

<https://commerce.cashnet.com/PDXCPS>

EMPA's

Website: <https://www.empa.org.au/>

For any questions, please

email: [PNW@empa.org.au](mailto:PNW@empa.org.au)



## Only 3% of People in the U.S. Give this Type of Donation Needed by the Red Cross

The American Red Cross has launched the Missing Types campaign to raise awareness for the unmet need for blood and encourage people to take action by rolling up a sleeve to help save lives by filling in the missing A, B and O blood types. Between June 11 and June 30, the Red Cross and 26 iconic corporate and civic brands, as well as celebrities and influencers, will bring attention to the need for more blood donors nationwide. Only 3% of people in the U.S. give blood. Partners are engaging in a variety of ways from dropping the letters A, B and O from their logos, signage, websites and other public facing platforms to hosting critical blood drives this summer. “Every day kids battling cancer, accident victims being raced into the ER, and new moms facing complicated childbirths need lifesaving blood transfusions,” said Cliff Numark, senior vice president, Red Cross. “However, only 3 out of 100 people give blood in the U.S. This is simply not enough. The Missing Types campaign allows us to take a non-traditional approach and inspire individuals to roll up a sleeve to ensure blood types A, B and O do not go missing from hospital shelves for patients that dearly need them.”

You are the missing A, B or O for a patient in need. Help make a lifesaving difference and schedule an appointment to give blood by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org), using the [Red Cross Blood Donor App](#), calling 1-800-RED-CROSS or activating Amazon’s Alexa Red Cross Blood Skill.

New survey shows giving blood is simply not top-of-mind Results from a 2019 survey conducted on behalf of the Red Cross showed troubling disconnects between the public’s perception of blood donations and the realities of patient transfusion needs.

- According to a 2019 survey conducted on behalf of the Red Cross, clothes (69%), money (63%) and food (53%) are the primary ways that the public has donated to help others in the past year.\* Only three percent of people in the U.S. give blood.
- A third (33%) of the public has never considered that blood may not be available when a loved one needs it.\* Just last month, the Red Cross had only six units of type O blood available for every 100,000 people, but more than twice that is needed every day.
- Blood transfusion is one of the most common hospital procedures in the U.S. Yet, “Never really thought about it” was cited in a just released 2019 Red Cross survey as the primary reason, (26%) that people do not give blood among those who haven’t given recently.\*

Source:

<https://www.redcross.org/about-us/news-and-events/news/2019/only-3-of-people-in-the-u-s--give-this-type-of-donation-needed-.html>