



HAPPY NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH!

From September 15 to October 15, the United States recognizes and celebrates the contributions and influences of Hispanic Americans through their history, culture, achievements. Originally referred to as Hispanic Heritage Week back in 1968 when it was first established. Twenty-years later, it was expanded to a month-long celebration in 1988 when Representative Esteban Edward Torres and Senator Paul Simon sponsored and amended the change, which was then signed into law by President Ronald Reagan. The reason the date of September 15 was chosen as the starting date to commemorate National Hispanic Month is because it centers around the anniversary of five Hispanic countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. It is important to celebrate and embrace the greatness in which Hispanics and Latinos have helped enrich the United States with their culture, influence, and achievements throughout our country's history.

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DISASTERS DON'T WAIT FOR ANYONE: BE PREPARED! PLAN ACCORDINGLY



By Kellie Hale

September is recognized as National Preparedness Month (NPM). It was launched back in 2004 by FEMA through the organizations Ready Campaign as a way to promote disaster planning for families and communities. With COVID-19 continuing to impact our nation, it is the perfect opportunity to be involved in NPM.

Ready.gov provides a week-by-week plan of activities for September you can partake in with your family on how to be better prepared. Such activities include Make A Plan, Build A Kit, Prepare for Disasters, and Teach Youth About Preparedness.

Understanding more about the ways you can be prepared for disasters, not only helps reduce risks to the environment and health, but provides a great opportunity to for homeowners, families, communities, and businesses to help others understand the importance of disaster and emergency preparedness.

Our website offers its own webpage dedicated to preparedness. We honor the National Preparedness Goal core capabilities, which list community resilience as the ability to “lead the integrated effort to recognize, understand, communicate, plan, and address risks so that the community can develop a set of actions to accomplish Mitigation and improve resilience.”

Remember, emergencies can occur at any time and usually without warning. Multiple studies have demonstrated that if people proactively receive training before a disaster, they can minimize fatalities, injuries, and property damage.

Here are additional resources on how to be better prepared for emergencies and disasters:

<https://www.epa.gov/natural-disasters/september-preparedness-month>

<https://www.weather.gov/bmx/outreach> npm

<https://www.census.gov/newsroom/stories/preparedness-month.html>

HSEM INSTITUTE: FUTURE WORKSHOPS

Our Center will focus on expanding the training and education activities available through the HSEM Institute. These trainings will provide professional development opportunities for faculty, industry professionals, and students. Trainings will be in the All-Hazards Emergency Management fields (Criminal Justice, HSEM, Occupational Health and Safety, EMT/EMS, Fire Command/Fire Services and Cybersecurity).

Business Continuity Planning, Resilience and Recovery, FEMA fundamentals, and Mental Health in Disaster Management have been identified as priority training. These courses will help students, faculty, and industry professionals gain awareness of industry needs, while staying current, and leveraging existing strengths and partnerships. Instructors will be industry experts who will provide well-developed courses and/or trainings that will benefit to those participating.

When Disruption Becomes the New Normal: Pathways to Resilient Communities will engage our public-private partners to become more disaster prepared so they will be ready, be connected, and be resilient.

The capacity of a business, organization, or community to rebound from a variety of impacts from an unforeseen event such as an economic disaster or sudden economic downturn is the >>>



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focus of our “Pathways to Resilient Communities” training program. Unanticipated events can be catastrophic such as a major earthquake in which there is major damage and loss of life, major emergency such as a multi-jurisdictional flood, or an emergency such as a challenge to life safety require immediate action to prevent loss of life and can have major impact on the survival of a business, organization and community in the short and long-term. The ultimate goal of every organization is to protect critical resources and minimize loss in order to remain operational and profitable in our communities.

After a disaster, the Small Business Administration estimates that roughly 25-30% of businesses never reopen and those that do recover often suffer financial hardships after financing repairs and reclaiming their customer bases. We can give businesses, organizations, and communities the tools they need to effectively plan for disasters by becoming more resilient.

The training will not focus solely on the catastrophic, the content will address a range of disruptions that can happen in varying degrees which communities can anticipate and mitigate. We will teach a range of tools that can be used to “manage” a range of disruptions, we can create a more robust and durable community. The training will not only equip you with the tools you need to executive a business/organizational resiliency and disaster planning, but also designed to help you respond to addressing the resistance that occurs to change. This training will offer solutions for you to address the resistance whether it be lack of knowledge of the threat, the lack of motivation enough to act, or are not open to new ideas.

“At the conclusion of this training program, participants will be able to translate the learning objectives below into meaningful conversations with their organizations and communities.”

- Linda Crerar, Director



1. Understand core concepts and importance of disaster preparedness.
2. Address KSAs needed to survive natural, technological, and artificial disasters whatever the scale.
3. Understand about disasters to different regions and organizations so be able to identify what hazards can affect your location.
4. Understand the stages of a disaster and how preparedness concepts and tools facilitate organizational and business resiliency.
5. Understand risk management concepts as the relate to disaster preparedness.

You will receive a “tool kit” with extensive resources and templates (most are available free of charge) that can be utilized for disaster planning. These sessions will be offered starting this fall in a virtual setting and will occur over several weeks. These sessions will be repeated throughout this remaining year and 2021. We will have Senior Fellows, Associates and Guides/mentor available to work with you as you implement the process and plan to ensure success.

Our registration and training announcements will go out in the October Confluence, our website and through social media. You can also sign up on our website to receive our Confluence newsletter and view our events calendar on the website, which we update regularly.

Introducing Lorraine Churchill

“Please join us in welcoming Lorraine Churchill as a contributing podcaster to the Center of Excellence! We met Lorraine at the annual Washington State Emergency Management Association (WSEMA) conference and asked her to join us as an Advisory Board member for the Center, a role she has proudly held for the past three years. Lorraine’s daily life includes service as an



emergency management and homeland security professional, with a unique blend of leadership and management sense, collaborative business development aptitude, and relationship-building experience delivering results vital in diverse, dynamic, domestic and international environments. Her current focus under this umbrella includes chemical safety and sustainability.

With Lorraine’s background, we asked her to host shows exploring important topics related to emergency management, homeland security, diversity and growth. Initial subjects will include connecting with your local emergency community alert systems, your local emergency management partners, how to volunteer, become prepared, and a myriad of others! If you have a topic or issue you’d like to hear about, please share it with us at: KHale@pierce.ctc.edu

We are so excited to have Lorraine on board as our new podcaster and can’t wait to debut her show! More detail to come!”

RIISING STAR AWARD: PAST RECIPIENT RESPONSE – SHANE MOORE



RIISING STAR AWARD

I am truly grateful for the opportunities and experience that I was able to gain while working for the Center of Excellence for HSEM. I believe this award to be one of many extensions of empowerment that the Center provides to everyone that they touch. For me it was not so much the object I received, rather it was the feeling of pride that I experienced because the people I respected believed in my success. When I was presented with the award in front of my colleagues it wasn't as if I was being honored in the sense that I had achieved something out of the ordinary. I saw it as an amazing acknowledgement which showed that through hard work and perseverance (and great friends) in a short amount of time I was able to raise myself to become a respected peer. Now that my star has risen, it's time to help others to reach higher than they thought they could on their own. I continue to appreciate all that the Center has to offer and the very real sense of empowerment that they bring to others through their outreach and initiatives like the Rising Star Award.

*Shane Moore
Catastrophic Planner
Operations Unit / Preparedness Section
Emergency Management Division
Washington Military Department*

"Overall Shane has met or exceeded all expectations for his position. Shane's positive attitude and work ethic have made him a valuable member of the team. Furthermore, Shane had worked tirelessly in support of COVID-19 response, contributing to the state's efforts to provide local and tribal governments with enough resources for their response efforts. Shane took on extra duties to continue to support local planning while also completing tasks related to his new role as the catastrophic planner. He consistently adds value to each program he has touched. During this period Shane completed a Planning Engagement Guide that serve as a foundational document for how the state conducts emergency planning for years to come."

– Michael Roberson, Planning Program Supervisor.

HAPPY 5TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF JIM MULLEN'S BLOG, *EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, ONCE REMOVED*

By Kellie Hale

At our 2015 Educators and Practitioners Summit, which celebrated the Center's 10th year since its formation, Jim Mullen was one of our keynote speakers. I was amazed by Jim's ability to tell a story. After the Forum, I knew I needed to get Jim to be our blogger. With his over thirty-years of experience in emergency management, I recognized that other people needed to have the chance to read about his stories and knowledge he could share with others. I am thankful that Jim accepted my offer. Now with five-years under his belt as our blogger, I look forward to another five more years and so on.

"September 2020 marks the 5th anniversary of Emergency Management Once Removed, sponsored by the Center of Excellence for Homeland Security and Emergency Management, I am grateful to the Center's excellent team (Linda, Kellie, Jasmine, and Bryan) for their support and encouragement. To regular and occasional readers, thank you."

– Jim Mullen

