

THE ROLE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY

Edited by Mark R. Landahl
and Tonya E. Thornton

COMMUNITY, ENVIRONMENT
AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

VOLUME 24

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COMMUNITY, ENVIRONMENT AND DISASTER
RISK MANAGEMENT VOLUME 24

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FOREWORD

LAW ENFORCEMENT: A KEY ROLE DURING DISASTERS AND CRISES

The role of law enforcement before, during, and after disasters and crises have occurred is evolving. It is in part evolving due to the expanded risk of hazards and threats.

Because of this, such organizations must see themselves as a major player in emergency management functions. Additionally, they will continue to have the first responder role given the proximity to the incident site and relationship with people in the community for which it serves. Additionally, their “readiness” is a central component to planning and response because they:

- are likely to arrive first on the scene;
- possess a well-developed communication system;
- are familiar with the local terrain and critical infrastructure;
- have a better knowledge of the local community and culture; and
- have better recognition as a visible and uniformed first responder.

Still, the role of law enforcement during distressing times goes beyond initial skillsets. They are also instrumental in:

- providing first response aid and treatment to those who may be injured or trapped;
- guiding others out of harm’s way;
- offering immediate transport out zones of danger; and
- creating resource plans for continued response and recovery.

Because of the role versatility with which law enforcement offers emergency management, adaptation becomes integral for success.

I am blessed to work for a world-renowned fire and rescue department, often regarded for its urban search and rescue capabilities. Even more impressive is the daily collaboration between law enforcement and emergency management embodying one public safety team. While I hope that other public safety agencies align as closely as we do, I can confidently say that I have never witnessed a group so dedicated to one vision.

The *Law Enforcement: A Key Role During Disasters and Crisis* will serve as a powerful desk reference for public safety leaders tasked with collaboration, communication, and cooperation in the wake of evolving disasters and crises.

Jason R. Jenkins

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Community, Environment, and Disaster Risk Management series deals with a wide range of issues relating to natural and human-induced hazards and high and emergent threats along with approaches to disaster risk reduction. As people and communities are the first and the most important responders to crises and environment-related problems, this series aims to analyze critical field-based mechanisms which link community, policy, and governance systems.

It is our sincere hope and belief that paradigmatic hazard and threat scholarship will profoundly connect law enforcement and emergency management with communities of practice, including public administrators and other first responders, in serving as force multipliers in emergency planning and disaster/crisis response.

This book has, therefore, benefited considerably from the contributions of many individuals, whom we give thanks:

Dr. Brett Bailey

Chris D. Bertram

Eileen M. Decker

Max Geron

Michael Goldsmith

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Jenna Tyler

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Robert Vasquez

We would also like to thank Patrick R. Baxter and C. Tyler Goodwin for both their editorial assistance and insightful introductory contributions.

We dedicate this edited volume to the good governance in law enforcement and emergency management and to all of those members who have sacrificed their lives on the front line, and to Dr. Paul L. Posner, whose life's work as a self-professed "pracademic" contributed immeasurably to all practices of good governance in our country.

Finally, this volume would not have been possible without the support of Dr. William L. Waugh, Emeritus Professor at Georgia State University and a three times chair of the American Society for Public Administration's Section on Emergency and Crisis Management.