



**Emergency Management: Our Strengths. Our Weaknesses.
Our Future.**

June 7th from 1:00pm-2:00pm ET

Presented by **Carol Cwiak**

Presentation Abstract: Emergency management stands at a crossroad. Decades of efforts focused on advancing and supporting professional practice have shaped the narrative of emergency management's identity, relevance, and value proposition. In the public eye, the importance of the field's efforts becomes more evident with each high visibility, high cost event. From a governing perspective, elected officials have learned the utility of strong, flexible emergency management programs. The time has come for emergency management to come fully into its own as a recognized, autonomous profession, but this will require a collective effort.

We live in a risk society in which emergency management is tasked with managing the most complex, diverse risk portfolio with the intent of protecting lives, property, and the environment. The management of this risk is critical to a functioning society as it is inextricably linked to the economy, governmental structure, culture, and the well-being of citizens, organizations, and communities. The responsibility for emergency management can no longer be relegated to individuals who do not have the requisite training, education, and experience required. The resources required to effectively manage the emergency management risk portfolio can no longer be viewed as a luxury or optional. There must be a wholesale recognition that the strength of the emergency management enterprise in any organization or jurisdiction is equivalent to the strength of the organization or jurisdiction.

This session will address the current state of emergency management and offer a forecast for its future. Attendees are encouraged to bring their passion, commitment, and wealth of experience to the discussion portion of this presentation. This is our time and we are the ones who will write the script for emergency management's future.

Speaker Bio: Dr. Carol L. Cwiak is an Associate Professor in the Department of Emergency Management at North Dakota State University (NDSU). Dr. Cwiak holds a J.D. and a Ph.D. in Emergency Management. Dr. Cwiak is a subject matter expert on matters relating to emergency management higher education program development, emergency management identity, and emergency management professionalization and works frequently with businesses, organizations, and local, state, and federal agencies on projects of importance to the emergency management community.