



## **Research and Practical Applications with the Practitioner**

March 25<sup>th</sup> from 2:30pm-3:30pm ET

Presented by: **Cathy Clark**, Deputy Director and Statewide Interoperability Coordinator at the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Division of Emergency Communication Networks; **Jessica Jensen**, Associate Professor of the Department of Emergency Management at North Dakota State University.

**Presentation Abstract:** In this podcast style presentation, practitioner, Cathy Clark, and academic, Jessica Jensen will share their journey from when they met to the projects they are tackling today. In sharing their story, Cathy will ask about aspects of research and researchers that have long confused and frustrated emergency management practitioners. These issues hinder the use of research, perceived usefulness of it, and engagement with academics. Jessica will chat with Cathy about these issues—why they exist and what can be done about them to make research more used and useful. We will conclude with our reflections about how important the practitioner-academic relationships are, and how we can further our collaborative actions to create and inspire true change in the emergency management profession. Together, we're striving to close the gaps that impede the ability, for the two of us and our colleagues, to deliver strategies and tactics that help translate theory into practice.

**Speaker Bios:** Jessica Jensen is an Associate Professor of the Department of Emergency Management at North Dakota State University. Jensen studies a range of topics central to the practice of emergency management by examining relevant scholarship, collecting data through work with practitioners in the field, and exploring policy. Jensen is committed to seeing that research is meaningful to practitioners and can be applied in the field. She works toward this goal by educating students at NDSU, serving on national work groups, facilitating the Emergency Management Higher Education Network, publishing her work in journals, and sharing the findings of her work at professional and academic conferences.

Cathy Clark is the Deputy Director and Statewide Interoperability Coordinator at the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Division of Emergency Communication Networks. Previously, Cathy led the Organizational Development Branch within the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Cathy has also served as Communications Director and spokesperson. Her expertise includes strategic planning, policy development, media relations, crisis communications and employee communications.