



The Day I Discovered I Didn't Have a Clue: Transforming a Responder Mindset to a Preparedness Mindset

March 25th from 11:30am-12:30pm ET

Presented by: **Marcus Bruning**, retired Supervising Deputy, St. Louis County, MN Sheriff's Office

Presentation Abstract: As a seasoned commander of law enforcement response who had recently been assigned to oversee emergency management, my first “bad day” happened and I soon discovered I didn’t have a clue. A 100 year flood inundated my jurisdiction and as usual, I assumed a response mode. My response units performed flawlessly and tirelessly rescuing citizens and controlling chaos.

When everyone was safe and it felt like we had control, I met with my staff and told them how much I appreciated their work. My remarks indicated we were done. A courageous subordinate asked to meet with me privately in my office.

“Do you know what we really do here? Have you ever heard of the Preparedness Cycle? Are you aware of the planning and prevention steps we have initiated that led to our success in our initial response? Have you considered the planning, organizing, exercising and evaluating we have done?”

He went on to help me understand our role was to coordinate and manage resources and to consider the next phase of the operation. Most importantly, he explained we were not done. We were responsible for recovery and stabilization of critical functions and of people's lives in our community. Eventually we would explore mitigation and work with our community to limit the impact of disasters like we had just encountered.

This was the day I discovered I didn't have a clue.

Speaker Bio: Marcus Bruning retired from active law enforcement in 2013 after a 28 year public safety career. Marcus served the last 20 years with the St. Louis County, MN Sheriff's Office where he retired as Supervising Deputy Sheriff (Rank of Major) of the Homeland Security Division. Marcus is a Minnesota Homeland Security and Emergency Management Certified Emergency Management Director.

Marcus Bruning is known for the real world practical education and training he provides for law enforcement professionals and coordinated community-based teams across the country and around the world. Marcus has trained emergency response professionals in all fifty states, twenty-one countries in Europe, South Korea, Honduras and Argentina. Marcus has served on several program development teams and facilitated training for agencies including The federal Law Enforcement Training Center, U.S. Army, National Sheriff's Association, United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and The United Nations.

Supervising Deputy Bruning has published articles in the National Sheriff's Magazine and has been quoted in Oprah's "O" Magazine. Marcus also served as an adjunct professor for the University of Minnesota from which he earned his Masters of Education degree and is a member of American Mensa.