



Cynthia Gavin  
Doctor of Strategic Leadership

### The Evolution of the Emergency Manager: Future Smart Disaster Leadership

NEXTGEN-oriented Emergency Managers know it's time for a change. Perhaps this is because we have been working within a national emergency management system that has been predicated on a 1970's philosophy, or because we have realized integrating specialized Weapons of Mass Destruction assets into the response is not likely to help us in all types of disasters. Despite the Emergency Management improvements we have made over the past forty years, leaders and their followers report they are not confident regarding how to prepare for the future. Disasters such as cyber-attacks, infrastructure failures, banking collapse, highly organized terrorist riots, and utility attacks unfold differently than the hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, and winter storms, for which we are prepared. NEXTGEN Emergency Managers will not only need to contend with different types of disasters, but they will also need to apply different leadership practices to prevent an originating event from escalating into second and third order crises. During this session, we will discuss future disasters Emergency Managers will face, a different way to define disasters, and consider the benefit of using strategic foresight to examine the effectiveness of our strategies when responding to future events.

### Speaker Biography

Dr. Cynthia Gavin is a strategist, having a diverse background in healthcare, disaster response, and U.S. military planning. Among her favorite positions, she has provided strategic advisement for the U.S. Secret Service's Technical Security Division, The City of New York Office of Emergency Management, and the U.S. Army Chemical Biological Center. Having recently become a Doctor in Strategic Leadership at Regent University, Dr. Gavin loves to help leaders develop their skill and mindset by integrating the concepts of strategic foresight with leadership coaching. She has taught for the Harvard School of Public Health and the University of Maryland Baltimore County and she has published several works within the Department of Defense and private sector. Some of Dr. Gavin's works include Disaster Planning, Return on Investment, Decision Papers, and creating a future vision for Medical Examiners and Coroners. Most recently she published her book on NEXTGEN Leadership for Managing Disasters, creating a future-oriented model for State and Local Officials.