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Lessons Learned from Managing Mega-Shelters: A case study of shelter operations from two flood events in Binghamton, New York

In 2006 and again in 2011 Binghamton University opened its doors to the community following devastating regional flooding. In both instances, Binghamton University cared for over 2,000 evacuees from the community who were displaced from their homes with nothing more than the clothes on their back and a few possessions. The shelter operation was divided into two separate functions: a general population shelter and a functional medical needs shelter. Each operation had unique challenges requiring creative solutions. This presentation will highlight the challenges of operating a mega-shelter and will focus on lessons-learned from the perspective of the shelter manager.

Speaker Biography

Dave Hubeny has worked in the emergency services field for over 30 years. He is the Executive Director for the Office of Emergency Management at Binghamton University which includes oversight responsibilities for the Office of Environmental Health and Safety.

As an emergency manager, Dave has successfully managed a wide range of complex incidents and has organized and run exercises for Binghamton University as well as other higher education institutions. Incident Action Plans, emergency plans and other related documents written by Dave have been adapted for use at several other colleges and universities across the country.

Dave has a master's degree in public administration and is a Certified Emergency Manager®. He resides in Endicott, New York with his wife Heather and they have three adult children.