



Changing Careers or Career Paths...Are You Ready?

Presented by: **Mike Gavin, Emergency Manager, City of Fort Collins, CO (ret.)**

Presentation Abstract: The days of working for the same company, in the same position, while preparing for retirement is no longer the norm. Many of us will work or have worked for a variety of companies and done so in a variety of positions. The question is can we control our career and what are some of the key issues that we need to address in order to make that occur in a positive manner. Being locked into the same routine day after day, year after year, isn't what many of us would consider enjoyable or exciting. If you don't enjoy what you are doing, it may mean it's definitely time for a career change. Over my 40 years in emergency service, I had the opportunity to work for a variety of agencies, in a variety of positions. Today I will share some of the issues that presented themselves which allowed me to control my career path and eventually change my career from the fire service, to emergency management, to instructor/facilitator and consultant.

Indeed there are steps that can be taken which will facilitate and prepare you for an easy and exciting transition. The same steps I used to control my career path, I shared with many of my interns to assist them in designing a successful career path which they were in control of.

Being prepared and having a plan will allow you to have options when it comes to your career path or changing your career.

Speaker Bio: Mike Gavin is a retired battalion chief having served over 40 years in emergency services. The last 14 years of his career he was the emergency manager for the City of Fort Collins, Colorado. His experience includes roles in EMS, code enforcement, arson investigations, hazmat and WMD. His role as the emergency manager covers work in prevention, preparedness, protection, mitigation, response and recovery in the areas of natural, technological and man-made hazards. He is past chair of the State of Colorado All Hazards Advisory Committee, past conference chair for the International Association of Emergency Managers and has been an instructor for the FEMA, USFA and the Department of Homeland Security through the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium. His experience in disaster preparedness is both domestic and international. Mike currently is a full time instructor for the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium with TEEX. Courses he instructs includes ICS, sports and special event management, disaster preparedness for critical infrastructure and recovery. He is also the executive director of Gavin and Associates.