Climate Change Impacts and Critical Factors for Disaster and Emergency Management

Presented by: **Dr. Sepideh Yalda, Ph.D., Professor of Meteorology and Director, Millersville University's Center for Disaster Research and Education**

Presentation Abstract: This talk with provide an overview of the potential impacts of climate change with a specific focus on natural disasters. In the context of the major disasters over the last few years ranging from but not limited to catastrophic events such as major tropical cyclones, wide-spread wildfires, prolonged droughts, unseasonable severe weather and tornadoes, and significant flooding, it is now more important than ever to address the relationship between climate change and the potential impacts on the severity and frequency of natural disasters. Extreme events as manifestations of the influence of climate stressors, environmental and infrastructure degradation, socioeconomic inequities, and population growth and migration are increasing the potential for natural disasters. Furthermore, there is a critical need to consider, carefully examine, update how we prepare for and adapt to these changes in both the short term and long term in the context of climate change to improve disaster risk reduction and to build more resilient communities. There exists an opportunity for the emergency management community to further align

its practices considering these potential threats to reduce risks and the impacts on lives and property.

Speaker Bio: Dr. Sepi Yalda is a Professor of Meteorology, the Director of the Millersville University's Center for Disaster Research and Education, and the Coordinator for the MS and BS programs in Emergency Management. She has served as an invited member on committees and boards for EMI, IAEM, the American Meteorological Society (AMS), the National Center for Atmospheric Research and the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research. She is an official consultant for the United Nations and a Fellow of the AMS.