



## **Perspectives on Emergency Management: Past, Present, and Future**

Presented by: **Lucien Canton, CEM, Lucien G. Canton**

**Presentation Abstract:** The development of our current system of emergency management has not been linear but rather the product of trial and error based on focusing events and politics. In many cases, it has caused us to relearn the lessons of the past as we tend to forget the significance of historical disasters. This is unfortunate as the past offers a wealth of information on the mechanisms to which people default in crisis and can serve to validate our current policies and strategies. The process of developing our current system has also resulted in an accumulation of errors and misconceptions that hamper our effectiveness in response and, particularly in recovery. Emerging threats will force major changes to our system of emergency management and if we are to meet those challenges, we need to understand where we are successful and what must be improved. This presentation considers what has been successful and why and identifies some of the key issues we must address to meet future challenges.

**Speaker Bio:** Lucien G. Canton is an independent management consultant specializing in helping managers lead better in crisis. He is the former Director of Emergency Services for San Francisco CA where he coordinated the emergency management program and served as policy

advisor to the mayor on emergency management and Homeland Security issues.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. Canton served as an Emergency Management Programs Specialist and Chief of the Hazard Mitigation Branch for FEMA Region IX where he assisted in responding to over eighteen major disasters.

Mr. Canton is a Certified Emergency Manager, and a Certified Business Continuity Professional. He holds a Master of Business Administration in International Management degree and is the author of *Emergency Management: Concepts and Strategies for Effective Programs* and of numerous articles on emergency management and security topics.