

## **Desiree Sullivan**

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NON-COMPETITIVE

### Establishing a Watch Desk

The concept of a Watch Desk is grounded in Emergency Management. The primary duties of a Watch Officer are to keep track of resources and demands, evaluate and assess threats, and support the Emergency Operations Center. Traditionally, a Watch officer looks at a large geographic area or region to provide shared situational understanding to support effective decision-making. Many need to be made aware of how scalable Watch Desks are to the specific needs of stakeholders, businesses, and agencies. This poster will demonstrate the need and effectiveness of what a Watch Officer does and how this role can benefit any organization.

As the world continues to grow in population, technology, and with the increase in weather-related events and terrorist threats to society, organizations, businesses, and institutes of any size or nature must have a specialized unit that gathers intelligence and information to prepare them or assist in preventing harm or violence against their community, employees, or infrastructure. A Watch Desk focused solely on providing situational awareness is essential to the success of preparedness and prevention for any business.

**Presentation Theme:** The theme of 'Establishing a Watch Desk' reflects my experience in emergency management and situational awareness. This presentation will demonstrate a clear and concise reason for businesses and agencies of all sizes to create a Watch Desk that will be effective in preparedness and possible prevention of harm and threats to their infrastructure, employees, and community.

**Collaborators, Advisor(s) and Department(s) that assisted with this research:** Neil Vilhelmsen