

## **Eric Marble**

Global Emergency Management Specialist, Jacksonville State University /  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

### COMPETITIVE DIVISION – ACADEMIC

#### It's Time To Share The Spotlight: We Don't Need More Responders, We Need More Prepared Communities

The diverse nature of emergencies and disasters is only eclipsed by the multitude of differences in the communities impacted by emergencies and disasters. While the emergency management community has gone to great lengths over the past 20+ years to create and nurture a professional workforce of responders qualified to answer the call, there are only a finite number of experts capable of responding. To complicate matters, those finite number of expert responders are limited in the size and scope of the support they are capable of providing. Additionally, these responders may not be fully familiar with the cultural, racial, social, or economic dynamics of the community for which they are asked to respond and therefore, less effective at providing what is really needed. This isn't to suggest that the emergency management community should stop building and strengthening its pool of professionals, nor limit efforts to extend the reach of their service and support the needs of all communities. What it does suggest is that the priority and focus on training and capacity development must shift. There are 5 recognized mission areas of emergency management, yet the vast amount of emphasis resides primarily in one mission area - response. Emergency

management must go beyond using terms like mitigation, preparedness, and resilience as training props and actively allocate resources and attention to the development and expansion of these vital concepts. Further, the professional community must embrace its limitations and work to expand not only their skills and talents, but also the depth and breadth of individual and community preparedness and resilience. This research is aimed at showcasing the importance of decentralizing and diversifying emergency management, focusing on individual, and community preparedness and resilience, and illustrating the long-term financial benefits and unmatched savings in human lives.

**Presentation Theme:** A review and comparative analysis of benefits of decentralizing and diversifying emergency management, focusing on individual, and community preparedness and resilience, and illustrating the long-term financial benefits and unmatched savings in human lives.

**Collaborators, Advisor(s) and Department(s) that assisted with this research:** No other collaborators.