

## **Andrea Davis, CEM**

### **Founder and CEO, The Resiliency Initiative**

#### **Speaker Bio:**

Andrea has been in the field of crisis management since 1999, starting in the non-profit sector developing Y2K crisis response plans. Andrea went on to serve in the U.S. Federal government as the Emergency Manager for the 12<sup>th</sup> District Federal Reserve Bank and as the External Affairs Director for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Louisiana Recovery Office for Hurricane Katrina. For the past ten years, Andrea has led enterprise-wide crisis management departments for multi-national, Fortune 50 companies – The Walt Disney Company and the Walmart Corporation. Currently, she is the Founder and CEO of a woman-owned, crisis management consulting firm, the Resiliency Initiative.

Andrea's passion is volunteer service which led to her selection as the Inaugural Emergency Manager of the Year by the International Association of Emergency Managers in 2018 and her induction into the Women's Hall of Fame for Emergency Management in 2013. Andrea is currently servicing as Board Chair for the Northwest Arkansas American Red Cross and a founding member of the Arkansas Tiffany Circle.

#### **Presentation:**

### **Are You Ok?**

This breakout will focus on the importance of checking in on your fellow emergency managers. I will be sharing a personal story on how the simple act of another emergency manager asking if "I was ok" stopped me from having a panic attack.

In November 2007, I attended my first IAEM conference in Reno, Nevada. I was still pretty junior in my career, and I felt it was a good way for me to network and grow in the field. Additionally, I needed to escape. I was dealing with the most devastating personal decision I had made so far in my life; I sent my teenage son away to a reform school in Utah on October 31, 2007. While at the conference I ended up nearly having a panic attack and a perfect stranger, the late Avagene

Moore, past IAEM president, walked up to me, took me aside and asked if I was ok. We ended up talking for almost hour with her sharing stories from her career in emergency management and she even convinced me to do a video for IAEM!