

Critical Issues in Disaster Science and Management

Bridging the Divide between Disaster Scientists and Emergency Managers

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A soon to be released FEMA Higher Education textbook

The emergency management community has long been aware of a gap that persists between emergency practitioners and scientists who study disasters. The *Critical Issues in Disaster Science and Management* project aims to foment a dialogue between academics and practitioners that begins to bridge the divide between the two professional communities.

In each chapter of this book an academic writer and a practitioner author reflect on a pertinent emergency management issue from their particular perspective and then integrate their unique viewpoints in a third “bridging the divide” section. By establishing a base knowledge of the others’ work, *Critical Issues in Disaster Science and Management* builds a foundation for more conversation.

A FEMA Higher Education Program textbook is being developed from the interchange.

The writing process

Phase 1: In the first draft of their chapter, academics summarized theoretical approaches for their issue, reviewed research findings and described trends and directions. Practitioners described central issues from their view, governmental guidelines and industry standards and how the emergency management community sees the future of the issue.

Phase 2: Each author reviewed their chapter partner’s work and wrote a short response paper which identified elements of agreement, pointed out disparities and areas where the each could benefit from the other perspective.

Phase 3: Chapter partners then reconciled their responses into a “Bridging the Divide,” section, highlighting areas held in common and proposing a vision for moving forward.

Phase 4: Each chapter was reviewed by an external academic and practitioner familiar with the focus issue of the chapter. Authors edited their work and submitted a final document to the editors. Authors also created a PowerPoint slide series to be used as teaching guides for their chapter.

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Publication Date

Critical Issues in Disaster Science and Management will be presented at a breakout session of the FEMA Higher Education Conference on June 3, 2014 in Emmittsburg, Maryland. Several authors will be present to introduce their work.

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