

Three Perspectives on Preparedness
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Government

After watching the interview with Thomas Chin, I had a clearer understanding of the goals and key aspects of emergency preparedness in the government agency. Their goal is to manage the entire city during a disaster by having duty officers deal with the needs of the first responders and incidents. They have to deal with both disaster situations and emergency calls for medical conditions. As a response coordinator, he is responsible for warning, notifying the public of an impending threat, and giving them direction on how to mitigate the threat. At the same time, he needs to notify city partners about the situation. The duty officer is responsible for getting additional resources to the incident and determining whether or not an EOC activation is necessary.

Business

To be honest, I have barely known about disaster and emergency preparedness in the business field before watching this interview with Carmela Hinderaker. As a director of business continuity, she is mainly responsible for monitoring the supply chains that affect the C&F, planning preparedness before coming events, and dealing with emergency situations during the events. Preparedness should be considered not only when natural disasters come, such as winter storms and wildfires, but also when pandemic breaks and holidays come. People are told to store groceries for themselves during emergency situations and C&F is the one that makes sure the customers can get whatever they need.

Community (individuals)

I was surprised that people were quiet and calm when evacuating the building through stairwells. In disaster movies, people usually run screaming and trample each other to make us a picture of terrifying. However, the fact was that people didn't tend to be panic unless there's competition for an exit. They helped each other. What happened on 9/11 made us aware of the importance of emergency preparedness for the building and our community. People delayed the time of getting out because they lack emergency training and fire drills. They didn't familiar with the stairwells and evacuation protocols. Fortunately, building codes were updated after 9/11 and the city expanded more training for directors including fires, chemical attacks, natural disasters, and other instances of violence.

I was impressed by the alert systems in San Francisco when Thomas Chin introduced how to alert the public. They have AlertSF for San Francisco residents, an Integrated Public Alert and Warning System, such as a wireless alert system and AMBER Alerts for tourists, and a weekly outdoor public warning system to make sure that everyone can be reached out. Moreover, it's really important for both individuals and the government to plan ahead and make effort to prepare before disasters actually come.