

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

As evidenced by the devastation wrought upon New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina swept ashore in 2005 and by the tragic loss of human life resulting from a solitary gunman on a rampage at Virginia Tech last spring, it is important that leaders at the local, state and federal levels of government, as well as from the non-profit and business sectors, remain ever-vigilant to the very real possibility that emergency or disaster can strike at any time, without warning. When leaders are better prepared to deal with crisis, they can help lessen the impact upon a community, a city, a state – even a nation.

This conference is designed to be an important step in the process of preparation, providing a valuable opportunity for individuals, businesses, governmental entities, non-profit organizations and other community groups to come together to share best practice strategies for responding to disasters and emergencies. From the specter of international terrorism to the public health threats posed by biological or chemical hazards, and from natural disasters such as hurricanes or floods to the aftermath that can stem from man's inhumanity to man, leaders must be ready to respond quickly, efficiently and effectively in the face of crisis. Ideas and information exchanged during this daylong summit will help today's leaders be better able to cope with tomorrow's emergencies.

The purpose of this conference is to bring together a variety of speakers who have been at the frontline of disaster and crisis situations to share their experiences about what works – and what doesn't work – in times of emergency. We especially encourage representatives from law enforcement, emergency response agencies, public health departments, non-profits and officials at all levels of government to attend, and ask that participants come prepared to take part in a dialogue about these issues. The Public Policy Institute will take the input from the speakers and all summit participants and develop a final policy report outlining the results of the conference and providing a roadmap for emergency and disaster leadership preparedness in the 21st century.

Summit Sponsors:

City of Asheville

Asheville Citizen-Times

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

N.C. Division of Emergency Management

Macon County Government

WCU Department of Political Science
and Public Affairs

WCU Department of Applied Criminology

Organized by:
Western Carolina University
Public Policy Institute

Emergency and Disaster



*A Summit on Preparing
Today's Leaders for
Tomorrow's Emergencies*

November 15, 2007
Ramsey Regional Activity Center
Western Carolina University
Cullowhee, North Carolina

WESTERN
CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

Leadership Preparedness

Summit: Emergency and Disaster Leadership Preparedness in the 21st Century

Program Schedule

7:30-8:30 a.m.

Registration and Visitation to Display Tables

8:30-8:45 a.m.

Welcome

Dr. John W. Bardo, Chancellor
Western Carolina University

8:45-9:50 a.m.

Panel I: Emergency and Disaster Leadership
Preparedness and Response

Panel Chair: **Dr. Gordon Mercer**, director
WCU Public Policy Institute

Applying Lessons Learned in Emergencies and

Disasters: Hurricanes Floyd, Ivan and Katrina

Jerry VeHaun, director, Buncombe County
Department of Emergency Services

Bioterrorism and All Hazards Preparedness:
A Public Health Perspective

Dr. Martha Salyers, M.D., Medical director
Buncombe County Health Center

The Importance of Effective Emergency-Disaster
Orientation and Training of Elected and Appointed
Officials: Katrina and Virginia Tech as Examples

Robert Berry, CEM, associate professor, Department
of Applied Criminology, Western Carolina University

9:50-10:50 a.m.

Panel II: Emergency and Disaster Leadership
Preparedness and Response

Panel Chair: **Dr. Michael Duvall**, Director of Economic
Development, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

Establishing a Command Center and Crisis and
Communications System in Disasters and Emergencies

Gregory Grayson, Chief of the Fire and Rescue
Department, City of Asheville

Local Leaders Preparing and Educating Citizens
for Emergencies and Disasters

Debra Collington, Director of Emergency Services
American Red Cross

N.C. National Guard Capabilities and Deployment in
Emergencies and Disasters: Force Packages

Lt. Col. Jamie Mosteller, Director of Military
Operations and Military Support, N.C. National Guard

10:50-11:05 a.m.

Break

11:05 a.m.-12:20 p.m.

Panel III: Emergency and Disaster Leadership
Preparedness and Response

Panel Chair: **Dr. C. Don Livingston**, professor
Department of Political Science and Public Affairs,
Western Carolina University

International Terrorism: FBI Response and Assessment

James D. Russell, Supervisory Senior Resident Agent,
Federal Bureau of Investigation and previously
Supervisor, National Joint Terrorism Task Force Unit at
the National Counterterrorism Center, Washington, D.C.

First Responder Preparedness in Western
North Carolina: A Preliminary Analysis

Dr. Lisa Briggs, assistant professor, and
Dr. Karen Mason, assistant professor
Department of Applied Criminology,
Western Carolina University

Public Health Preparedness: What It Is and
Who Does It?

Dr. Julie Casani, M.D., Preparedness director
N.C. Division of Public Health

12:30-1:55 p.m.

Luncheon and Keynote Addresses

Vision for the Future in Emergency and
Disaster Preparedness

H. Douglas Hoell, Jr., director
N.C. Division of Emergency Management,
Department of Crime Control and Public Safety

National Preparedness in Emergencies and Disasters:
The Challenge Ahead

Corey Gruber, assistant deputy administrator,
National Preparedness Directorate of the Federal
Emergency Management Agency and former Executive
Director of the National Preparedness Task Force for
the U.S. Department of Homeland Security

1:55-2:30 p.m.

Final Speakers Panel

Ideas for Solutions, and Questions for Speakers
and Panel Specialists

This panel provides an opportunity for conference
participants to offer their own ideas as well as to ask
questions of speakers who have shared their insights
during the summit.

2:30-3:00 p.m.

Visitation to Display Tables

Summit Registration

A registration fee of \$25 covers the luncheon,
conference, refreshments and materials.
Governmental agencies, non-profits and other
organizations working in the emergency and
disaster preparedness areas are encouraged to
set up booths. Tables for displays are available at
no cost, but are limited in number. Please make
checks payable to: WCU Public Policy Institute.

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Display table: Yes No

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Mail to: Dr. Gordon Mercer
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