



Comic Books and Budget Cuts

Presented by: Christy Ciccotelli; Eam Tang; Haily McKinnis

Presentation Abstract: Emergency preparedness is a critical component of community safety and resilience. With so much uncertainty surrounding local and federal budgets, constraints on emergency management funding have made supporting our communities increasingly challenging. However, utilizing the AmeriCorps and volunteer programs has helped fill gaps by better connecting the City of Henderson with its community through emergency preparedness education and outreach initiatives.

Learning Objectives:

We will be sharing how over the past year, AmeriCorps members have conducted emergency preparedness presentations at schools and spread awareness through public engagement, reaching over 1,200 individuals across 9 events. Behind the scenes, they have built and maintained collaborative connections with partners, undertaken projects like creating a workbook for children and even assisted with business continuity plans, helping reduce costs associated with outreach and preparedness efforts. Such events and initiatives serve to showcase the importance of emergency management and the critical role preparedness professionals play in keeping our communities safe.

Additionally, AmeriCorps has served as a conduit for mentorship in the emergency management space. As an overlooked profession, few aspire to enter the field. Yet, the program broadens public understanding while providing members with real-world experience and skills that go beyond what textbooks can offer. Through guidance from experienced professionals, members gain a practical understanding of the day-to-day

responsibilities of emergency managers, positioning the program as a gateway into the field.

Overall, the AmeriCorps program has enhanced the City of Henderson's outreach and education initiatives, while also helping cultivate the next generation of emergency managers. As communities face evolving hazards and resource constraints, AmeriCorps can play a vital role in expanding preparedness capabilities and strengthening community resilience.

Speaker Bio: Christy Ciccotelli is the current Vice President of NEPA (Nevada Emergency Preparedness Association) and the Emergency Management Public Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator for the City of Henderson in Nevada. She has a bachelors in Community Education and a master's in emergency and Crisis Management. Christy spends her days creating programs and initiatives to strengthen the community and increase collaboration with partners. She also manages the EM volunteer cadre as well as the newly developed AmeriCorps program for EM. Christy's passion is preparedness, community engagement, and her family.