



It Takes a Village... and Apparently an Algorithm

Presented by: Sarah K. Miller, PhD, CEM

Presentation Abstract: Resilience has always been a team sport. From community leaders and first responders to public works, healthcare, and volunteers, protecting our communities requires shared responsibility and coordinated action. Today, artificial intelligence is emerging as a new teammate, helping organizations make sense of growing volumes of information, identify risks faster, and support better decisions before, during, and after disasters. Drawing on real-world emergency management applications and lessons learned from AI adoption, this keynote explores how technology can strengthen collective resilience while keeping people, partnerships, and community at the center of the mission.

Speaker Bio:

Department Chair and Associate Professor of Emergency Management, Pierce College (WA).

Sarah Miller has been involved in emergency management for more than 30 years, serving as a first responder, 911 dispatcher, and emergency manager. She owned an emergency management and cybersecurity consulting company beginning in 2013, served as the emergency management coordinator for the 16 cities of South King County, Washington, and was the first full-time emergency manager for the City of Auburn, Washington. She previously served on the federal HHS/ASPR Incident Management Team as an Agency Representative. She has taught as an adjunct faculty member at multiple colleges and universities since 2002 and also instructs for the National Disaster Preparedness Training Center (NDPTC) and FEMA's National Disaster and Emergency Management University (NDEMU), formerly the Emergency Management Institute. A Certified Emergency Manager (CEM), she is a past president of IAEM Region 10, past chair of the IAEM Emerging Technology Caucus, and

currently serves as a Certification Commissioner. She is a graduate of FEMA's Basic, Advanced, and Executive Academies and has served on the faculty of all three programs. She also holds a graduate certificate in Information Security and Assurance and is a certified Cybersecurity Manager. Her doctoral research focused on the use of generative AI to improve emergency messaging.