

# PRESS RELEASE

*25 Virtual Summit presenters offer expert advice on disaster assistance and preparedness*

**Washington, D.C., September 11, 2017:** Twenty-five leaders and innovators in disaster management are set to present for the biggest online conference of its kind this Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> thru Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup>.

In the midst of Hurricane Irma response, Hurricane Harvey recovery, wildfires across the Western United States, earthquake recovery in Mexico, nuclear threats from North Korea, and the widespread Equifax cyber attack, the Virtual Summit offers world class perspectives, instruction and lessons learned to anyone wishing to attend. The event is free and will include video-based presentations that will allow attendees to ask questions and chat with attendees.

The event is hosted by the Safe and Ready Institute, in partnership with Disaster Resilient Communities Group, SPIN Global, DisasterNet and Do 1 Thing—a non-profit that helps individuals, families and businesses take easy steps to prepare for all types of threats and hazards.

Presenters include former state emergency management directors, disaster researchers and educators, and numerous subject matter experts addressing public safety and emergency preparedness for the whole community—including governments, schools, healthcare, businesses, faith-based organizations, volunteers, individuals, and families.

The event begins at 9:30 am Eastern on Tuesday with a keynote address by *Disaster Heroes* author Suzanne Bernier.

The complete agenda and registration information is available on the Safe and Ready Institute's website at <http://training.safeandready.org/p/virtual-summit/>. More information is available on Twitter @safeandready and by searching #safeandready #virtualsummit.

**For media and sponsorship inquiries:**

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# Safety+Emergency Readiness Virtual Summit Agenda

## Tuesday, September 12th

**9:30 am ET** Disaster Stories – Insights from Survivors and Heroes (Suzanne Bernier, author of *Disaster Heroes*)

**10:00 am ET** Disaster Recovery, Community Planning and Capacity Building (Timothy Gelston, FEMA)

**11:00 am ET** Innovative Learning with Online Training and Exercises (Chris Floyd, Disaster Resistant Communities Group)

**Noon ET** School Crisis Management and Family Reunification (Dr. Mary Schoenfeldt, preparedness hall-of-famer)

**1:00 pm ET** Recruiting Volunteers and Managing Volunteer Reception Centers (Ken Skalitsky, Emergency Management Director, Volunteer Florida)

**2:00 pm ET** The Missing Link with Individual & Family Preparedness (Jim Mullen, former Washington State Emergency Management Director)

**4:00 pm ET** Communicating w/ Persons w/ Disabilities During Disaster (Shannon Mulhall, ADA Coordinator, City of Fresno)

## Wednesday, September 13

**9:00 am ET** Building Community Resilience w/ the Sendai Framework (Aris Papadopoulos, Founder & Chair, Resilience Action Fund)

**10:00 am ET** Power Outage Preparedness (Jonathon Monken, Sr. Director, System Resiliency & Strategic Coordination, PJM Interconnection)

**11:00 am ET** Predicting Economic Impact of Disasters (Keith Thompson, Dun & Bradstreet)

**Noon ET** Public Private Partnerships and Information Sharing (Shandi Treloar, Principal, EM Strategies and Chair of the NEMA Private Sector Committee)

**12:30 pm ET** Information Sharing and Situational Awareness for Hurricane Harvey and Irma (Joel Thomas, CEO of SPIN Global, Founder of Planet Ready)

**1:30 pm ET** Dynamic Problem-Solving: Design Thinking and Emergency Preparedness (Desi Matel-Anderson and Donna Dupont, Field Innovation Team)

**2:30 pm ET** Getting Financial Assistance After Disasters – For Businesses and Families (Dr. James Jaffe, Disaster Dollars author, Professor)

**3:30 pm ET** Building All-Hazard Community Resilience w/ Heroic Improv (Dr. Mary Tyszkiewicz, Founder of Heroic Improv)

**4:00 pm ET** Cyber Threat Landscape and Information Security Trends (Matthew Eggers, Executive Director, Cyber Security Policy, Chamber of Commerce)

## Thursday, September 14

**10:00 am ET** The Benefits, Challenges, and Cautions of Memorializing Tragedy (Dr. Mahaganee Shaw, Emergency Management Educator and Researcher)

**11:00 am ET** Reaching Spanish-Speaking Residents with Emergency Preparedness Education (Dr. Lisandra Pagán, Business Risk Management Consultant)

**Noon ET** Talking to the Hand: Improving Public Safety Outcomes with Risk Communication (Ronda Oberlin, Chair of Do 1 Thing/City of Lansing Office of Emergency Management)

**1:00 pm ET** All-Hazard Preparedness for People w/ Special Health Needs & Disabilities (Karen Scallan, Special Needs and Parent Support Services of Louisiana)

**2:00 pm ET** Do 1 Thing Curriculum – Simple Step to Preparedness (Raynika Battle, Executive Director, Do 1 Thing)

**3:00 pm ET** Social Media for Emergency Managers (Suzanne Bernier, Disaster Heroes author and crisis consultant)

**4:00 pm ET** Video Chat Social Hour - Disaster Tips and Stories Open Mic #SMEMchat (you and all your friends)