

Evolution of Emergency Management

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I like to play games with my imagination and with that being said I will introduce my reader to the evolution of emergency management. In doing so we will pretend that we are able to utilize the power of a futuristic time travel machine. Without any further ado let us begin our journey. As we board the FEMA developed time machine, we set the date to 1940 and dial our arrival location to that of the oval office at the White House. Upon our arrival we proudly stand before President Franklin D. Roosevelt who is deep in serious thought.

As we glance over his shoulder, we discover he is actively occupied with developing his Office of Emergency Management program. From what we can see from our position behind the gentleman it appears that he is doing a fine job in his handiwork however perhaps we can lead him better into the proper direction to follow. As with any new and novel concept there would be much information from our time that the president could put to valued use.

One of my major goals in Emergency Management is to specialize in the subject of terrorism. I intend to eventually be cognate of the majority of terror organizations around the globe and how best to combat them. As an author, I have occasionally written an article or two on the topic of terrorist and look forward to completing many more in the future. With this knowledge I felt I could help support Presidents Roosevelt's new organization with an abundance of possible ideas.

There are several points of interest that I would instruct the president on. The first aspect for consideration is that of never underestimating one's enemies. We must not wait until events dictate to us our course of action. I would stress to him that his newly developed organization must prevent the American people from becoming compliant and believing that terror activities won't happen here. At that I would explain to him our 2001 event which shock the world and redefined America's security concerns. Mr. President, it can and did happen.

The second point to be made to Mr. Roosevelt would be we must not wait until the end of the 20th century to start interagency coordination. It would be his responsibility as

president and leader of our great nation to instill within the various emergency departments that cooperation is of the utmost significance. No one organization can have all the needed facts and data to totally minimize the projected threats which will eventually make headlines in America. I would ensure him that the terrorist is no different looking than him or I and in order to combat them we must gainfully get inside their heads and think as they do.

As for one of our countries worst natural disasters, I would have to list the devastation which resulted from the 2005 Hurricane Katrina. Although this Category 3 hurricane with its intense wind gusts and tidal surges included the entire Louisiana coastline the location most affected was New Orleans. As a result of its arrival at this port city there were in excess of 50 breaches within the cities levee system creating the worst natural disaster our nation has ever experienced. I would explain to Mr. Roosevelt that on television we could witness firsthand the horrors as they unfolded and the suffering placed upon these people as the levies broke and widespread flooding took place.

Naturally, the most significant manmade disaster to take place in America's lifetime would likely be the 9-11 destruction in New York City. I would relate this information to the president as a warning to what may come in our heralded history. The incident resulted in not only the deaths of 2,974 innocent American civilians but in countless first responders who arrived to assist the victims of this senseless attack. In order to stress the severity of the damage which occurred, I would explain to the president of the enormous amount of body parts which were found after the destruction took place.

As I prepared to depart the past and return to my own time era, I noticed a solemn and reflective look upon the president's face as he fully realized the importance of the task which lay before him.