

Contact

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Top Skills

Emergency Planning

Special Event Emergency Planning

Critical Thinking

Certifications

Certified Emergency Manager

Thomas S.

Service oriented leader focused on communities before, during and after disasters happen

Greater Chicago Area

Summary

Service-oriented leader with over ten years of diverse experience in large scale emergency management, disaster planning, preparation, response and recovery.

Demonstrated success in establishing emergency response programs including technological advances and collaborative relationships at all levels of government, non-profit organizations and the private sector through outstanding communication, negotiation and interpersonal skills. Keen attention to detail with ability to gather and research information and analyze situations to develop sound and ethical solutions. National reputation for creating strategic operational and tactical capability-base planning in response and recovery to disasters of all types.

Experience

FEMA

FEMA Region 5 Regional Administrator

March 2022 - Present (1 year 7 months)

Chicago, Illinois, United States

Responsible for coordination of FEMA assistance before, during and after disasters happen throughout 6 states (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI) and 34 federally recognized tribal nations

Cook County Government

Deputy Director Of Operations at Cook County Emergency Management & Regional Security

January 2022 - March 2022 (3 months)

United States

Responsible for the operation of strategic priorities of executive leadership, 24/7/365 response / recovery coordination of technical assistance, logistical response capabilities and situational awareness in conjunction with local, county, state and federal partners.

Cresco Labs

1 year

Vice President, Safety, Security & Emergency Management
May 2021 - January 2022 (9 months)

Current responsibilities include the comprehensive safety, security and emergency management / business continuity strategy, preparedness planning and program for Cresco Labs.

Vice President, Disaster Preparedness and Crisis Response
February 2021 - May 2021 (4 months)

City of Chicago

Deputy Director, Emergency Management at Office of Emergency Management and Communication

January 2015 - February 2021 (6 years 2 months)

Greater Chicago Area

Direct the comprehensive emergency planning portfolio in excess of 30 plans for the City of Chicago including response, recovery, mitigation and planning for emerging threats relating to emergency management and homeland security

Supervisor of 20 Emergency Management staff

Responsible for the incident coordination of the City's Emergency Operations Center including 32 city departments, 7 sister agencies, county, state, federal and non-governmental agencies and the private sector during planned and unplanned activations this includes a 24 / 7 / 365 coordination center

Successfully secured and managed \$5.1 million in Federal grants and responsible for annual operating budget of \$300,000

Successful in leading large-scale planned Emergency Operations Center activations including the 2016 Chicago Cubs World Series Victory and Parade, 2015 Blackhawks Victory Parade and various Special Event Assessment Rated 2 events

Served as City of Chicago Emergency Operations Center Incident Commander establishing specific objectives, battle rhythms, initial and sustained EOC activation regarding the Citywide coordinated response to COVID19 to include creation of teams focused on consequence management of cascading impacts

related to COVID19. This includes housing decompression of 800 individuals and best practice citywide feeding efforts focused on racial equity

Served as the City of Chicago Emergency Operations Center Incident Commander for the 2020 Civil Unrest Incidents affecting Chicago to include city, county, state and federal coordination of information and resources to include mission assignments for National Guard Resources

Coordinated a best practice of utilizing qualitative and quantitative data analytics for calls of service related to civil unrest and damage assessment process focused on recovery

Instituted a nationally recognized program relating to real time emergency management and the 2017 Chicago Marathon (45,000 participants and 1 million spectators)

Hamilton County Emergency Management

Executive Director

September 2012 - January 2015 (2 years 5 months)

Hamilton County Indiana

County agency responsible for all hazards planning, response, recovery of natural, human caused and technological incidents / disasters

Oversight of budget and management of comprehensive emergency management program for the county including the emergency operations plan, debris management, recovery plan, county hazard mitigation plan and identification of future disaster-related plans

Responsible for application and administration federal grants, securing approximately \$5 million in assets and grant-funded programs including management of the Urban Area Security Initiative for Hamilton County in conjunction with City of Indianapolis and coordination of the Threat Hazard Incident Risk Analysis

Identified Planning Section Chief for Central Indiana Incident Management Team assisting the City of Indianapolis during the 2012 Southside Explosion with recovery efforts including re-entry of over 100 homes

Assisted in the procurement of a \$9.6 million P25 compliant radio system for Hamilton County 911 communications

Oversaw county-wide coordination during the April 2013 flooding events including a disaster declaration and assistance to local agencies of over \$1 million in federal reimbursements

Responsible for the planning and directing of trainings and exercises for multi-jurisdictional participation including Emergency Operations Center and establishing the first ever county-wide multi-day disaster drill

Initiated a national best practice recognized by the National Association of Counties to effectively provide non-profit organizations with emergency response guidelines and business recovery planning

Responsible for the full oversight of approximately 120 volunteers participating in training programs for the Community Emergency Response Team and amateur radio

FEMA

Indiana Task Force 1 Urban Search and Rescue Planning / Tactical Information Specialist

December 2011 - January 2015 (3 years 2 months)

Indianapolis, Indiana Area

City of Indianapolis

2 years 9 months

Planning Section Chief, Homeland Security Division

February 2011 - October 2013 (2 years 9 months)

Indianapolis, Indiana Area

Division is responsible for all hazards planning, response, recovery of natural, human caused and technological incidents / disasters

Responsible for bi-annual comprehensive emergency management plan for preparedness, response and recovery for the City of Indianapolis and Marion County, Indiana

Principal for comprehensive emergency management programming including established relationships with over 30 local, state, federal, non-profit and private sector agencies throughout Marion County and adjacent counties

Managed the Marion County Hazard Mitigation plan and first-ever Hazard Mitigation Grant (\$150,000) for mitigation of a flood prone home

Responsible for special event and emergency incident consequence management facilitation and coordination of over 20 agencies, 5 state jurisdictions and 5 federal jurisdictions

Planning Section Chief on large scale city, county and state responses which encompassed large fires with family displacement and major incidents including the Indiana State Fair Collapse 2011 that resulted in 74 injured and 6 fatalities and the Henryville F4 Tornado 2012

Coordinated statewide federal grant requirements including emergency plan bi-annual updates, training and exercise requirements and outreach program responsibilities for resident preparedness

Planning Section Chief, Super Bowl XLVI Incident Management Team
October 2011 - April 2012 (7 months)

Indianapolis, Indiana Area

Incident Management Team responsible for the planning, response and after-action reporting for Super Bowl XLVI

Responsible for the creation and completion of an Event Action Plan for the 17 operational periods leading up to and including the Super Bowl

Established a nationwide best practice regarding operational planning for emergencies / consequence management for public safety field deployed personnel

Direct and supervised Planning Section team comprised of 3 Deputy Planning Section Chiefs, 6 Situation Unit Leaders, 4 Resource Unit Leaders and 1 Documentation Unit Leader

Lead efforts and best practices for situational reporting during events leading up to and including Super Bowl 46 including the creation of a situational awareness tool to manage incidents and resources

Authored after-action report on 18 public safety sub-committees and Super Bowl events, provided an overview of the strengths of the Super Bowl events and outlined opportunities of growth for subsequent events

Kalamazoo County Government
Regional Homeland Security Planner, Kalamazoo County Sheriff's
Department Emergency Manager
July 2010 - February 2011 (8 months)

Office is responsible for all hazards planning, response and recovery of
natural, human caused and technological incidents / disasters

Reviewed local and regional homeland security activities and recommend
process improvement of established plans

Responsible for the establishment of School Alert Workgroup, Special Needs
Workgroup, Medical Reserve Corps Unit Coordinator and Citizens Corps
Volunteers, acted as project manager and subject matter expert

Regularly met with elected officials, public safety agencies, representatives
from local businesses and private citizens to analyze and discuss the
implications of disaster planning programs and proposals

Provided improvement recommendations for emergency preparedness,
mitigation, response and recovery plans

Assisted with contingency planning for the Kalamazoo County oil spill, the
country's largest inland oil spill to date

Oshtemo Charter Township Fire Department
Firefighter
2009 - 2011 (2 years)
Kalamazoo, Michigan Area

5th District Medical Response Coalition
Deputy Bioterrorism Coordinator
November 2009 - August 2010 (10 months)
Kalamazoo, Michigan Area

Coalition provides emergency management of medical resources to EMS
agencies and hospitals before, during and after natural disasters and
catastrophic human caused events

Assisted in the management of federal grants, specifically with hospital and
pre-hospital disaster preparedness, including the oversight of \$1.2 million
dollars in assets and a budget of roughly \$1 million annually

Participated in the planning section of the Michigan Mortuary Response Team to respond to mass casualty disasters, contributing to the response planning and staffing the family reception centers in the aftermath of large-scale mass fatality and mass casualty incidents

Responded to natural and human caused disasters throughout a 9-county region of Southwest Michigan relating to hospital and pre-hospital care and addressed special needs populations before, during and after disasters

American Red Cross

Director of Emergency Services

January 2008 - November 2009 (1 year 11 months)

Kalamazoo, Michigan Area

Provides immediate food, clothing, shelter and recovery assistance for those affected by disasters of all types

Directed all relief efforts including sheltering, feeding, bulk distribution and direct financial assistance for disasters within a 4-county area comprised of approximately 450,000 people with a \$330,000 annual budget

Served as Regional Disaster Director providing subject matter expertise for six local chapters in western Michigan

Established collaboration between government and non-government entities to address special needs sheltering

Managed the second largest disaster relief effort in Kalamazoo history, with 35 volunteers and an emergency direct relief budget of \$62,000

Developed and fostered a successful collaboration between the American Red Cross, Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety, Kalamazoo County Office of Emergency Management and Western Michigan University to promote financial preparedness among renters through public engagements and community outreach

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Chicagoland & Northwest Indiana

Volunteer Coordinator

April 2007 - February 2009 (1 year 11 months)

Greater Chicago Area

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Dewitt Fire District

Volunteer Firefighter

July 1999 - August 2005 (6 years 2 months)

Syracuse, New York Area

Education

Naval Postgraduate School

Executive Leaders Program, Homeland Security · (2019 - 2021)

DePaul University

Master's of Science, Public Service Management · (2007 - 2010)

Marquette University

Bachelor of Arts, Criminology · (2000 - 2005)