

Fire Service Higher Education: Where Does Homeland Security Incorporate?

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Objectives

- Discuss the history of the fire service related to homeland security
- Discuss the evolution of fire service higher education
- Discuss the differences in Homeland Security and the Fire Service
- Discuss the overlap of the fire service and homeland security

Objectives

- Discuss collaboration findings in a recent dissertation
- Through group input, discuss the future of incorporating homeland security into fire service higher education

History of Fire Service Related to Homeland Security

- First responders often provided the first contact with citizens and provide life-saving assistance related to the disaster (Becker, Dark, Mason, & Goodwin, 2012).
- The interdependency and frequency of collaboration on planning and response projects increased in number and scope after the events of September 11, 2001 (Goffman, 2011; Tollefson, 2010).

Evolution of Fire Service Higher Education

- The Degrees at a Distance Program (DDP) schools offer 13 upper-level courses specially formatted for distance education, using tools such as online delivery via the Internet, course guides specifically written for independent learning, CD-ROMS, and video programs.
- Working with coordinators of two- and four-year academic fire and emergency medical services (EMS) management degree programs, the U.S. Fire Administration established the Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education (FESHE) network of emergency services-related education and training providers.
- The expanding role of firefighters has brought about the question of the ability to maintain proficiency in all disciplines, observing each decade since 1970, a significant increase in the needed knowledge occurred due to a new service provided or refined (Stone, 2014).
- Schultz and Schultz (2013) reported that in addition to training in numerous service delivery categories, firefighters now have an expectation for an educational degree to promote to the upper ranks of the fire department.

Differences in Homeland Security and Fire Service

- According to Ohio Homeland Security, their responsibilities are:
 - Improve statewide terrorism prevention and protection programs by maintaining appropriate policies, developing staffing plans, and providing for continuity of operations.
 - OHS will maintain a process for intelligence analysis and production that emphasizes the development and distribution of strategic and actionable intelligence.
 - OHS operational processes will adhere to strict standards for information and intelligence stewardship to include collection, storage, security, and sharing.
 - Strengthen the resiliency of Ohio's critical infrastructure and key resources (CIKR) by collaborating with public and private partners to identify vulnerabilities, share information, and facilitate the development of protective programs.

Overlap in Homeland Security and the Fire Service

- Cloud (2008) and Fleming (2010) explained that fire departments traditionally operated as reactionary organizations, however, a paradigm shift has focused many departments on all-hazards planning, response, and, recovery activities.
- Many of the disasters worldwide involve structural collapse, fires, and explosions, which demand the services of both the local fire department and the emergency medical services (Aini & Fakhru'l-Razi, 2013).
- Weapons of mass destruction (WMD) incidents provided a new type of hazardous materials incident that focused on utilization of chemical and explosive events to inflict harm to people (Carter, Drury, Rubin, Williams, and Amlot, 2013; Dowe, 2009; Okumura, Seto, & Fuse, 2013).

Collaboration Findings in a Recent Dissertation

Category		Leadership Traits to Enhance Collaboration	Managerial Skills to Enhance Collaboration	Personal Traits to Enhance Collaboration	K,S or T Lends most to Collaboration
common Themes		Communication to include listening	Organizing and managing processes and personnel	Trust and communication	Job knowledge and education

Future of Incorporating Homeland Security into Fire Science Curriculum

- Roles and Responsibilities
 - Response roles
 - Planning Roles
 - Intelligence Roles
 - Critical Infrastructure Assessment Roles
 - Legal Aspects Roles
- Learning Outcomes
 - What are key learning outcomes?

Open Discussion

- What successes has your program recognized?
- What difficulties have you encountered?
- Thoughts on fire service/homeland security integration in higher education.

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Questions

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