

Presentation Abstract submitted by:

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Presentation title: ***Disaster Heroes – The Human Factor or “How to be a Hero”***

Presentation summary: This uplifting motivational session, peppered with real-life inspirational and motivational stories resulting from tragedy will leave audiences inspired and energized!

The presenter will share some of her personal stories and insights on the many “helpers” she has met and interviewed for her critically-acclaimed book: ***Disaster Heroes – Invisible Champions of Help, Hope and Healing***, which recounts the incredible stories of ordinary people who’ve done extraordinary things to help respond, rebuild, and recover following some of the world’s most significant modern disasters. A self-professed “herologist”, Suzanne takes us through her observations on what makes a hero, and proves to us that there really is a hero in each of us.

While emergency response and business continuity plans, training and exercises are all must-haves for any company, government or agency, it’s the people BEHIND those entities, including the many volunteers, “helpers” and survivors that really step up and shine through during disasters.

Specifically, this presentation will highlight ordinary people who have selflessly devoted their time and effort helping to respond and rebuild following some of the world’s most significant disasters, including the 9/11 terror attacks, Hurricane Katrina, the Chilean mine collapse, the Haiti Earthquake, the Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, and others.

As we enter a new era of disaster management, communities must continue to recognize the need for collaboration between first responders, practitioners, and everyday volunteers after a disaster. By doing so, we all can become more creative, innovative, and respectful of the roles, ideas, and experiences we all bring to the table during a crisis.

Take-aways:

• Attendees will find out more about the ordinary volunteers behind the scenes of a disaster
• Attendees will learn more about the disaster “survivor” mentality
• Attendees will learn how to channel the ‘inner hero’ in us all
• Attendees will leave feeling empowered & acknowledged for the work THEY do!

