



Town of Exeter, Rhode Island

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Imagine you're a brand new; and I mean brand new Emergency Management Director for a community of 6,200 residents. Your skillset as a first responder allowed you to apply for this position. Even the questions asked during the initial interview proved that your benefactors are clearly unaware but somewhat understand the importance of this position. I'm appointed.

Six years later and a barrage of courses, exercises and "on the job" experience build the core foundation and move your community in a new direction. Success. Or that's what I thought. How can we do it better? Was there a way?

From my prospective; a division of one, it was time to capture the community. Make them understand that no matter our efforts, disasters were going to happen. Emergencies start at the local level. Emergencies need to be handled at the local level. We can prepare but no ounce of prevention was going to stop the inevitable.

We began embracing resilience; the ability to adapt. However, even though its definition, this concept lacked one very important component...Recovery.

Researching the Internet and professional sites, such as "LinkedIn", I came across Sean Scott and his Red Guide Book to Disaster Recovery. As amazed as I was in its discovery, I was astonished that this resource was the exact tool I needed to educate my community. I had to have it.

Starting with a simple structure fire. Your first responders create strategies. Develop and execute their tactical objectives. The fire is extinguished. Now what?

This is when a family's measure, resilience, and recovery efforts begin. It also leaves them with questions and circumstances they never expected or anticipated.

This resource is the exact tool to assist the family to maneuver the shark infested waters of contractors, insurance companies and available services. It empowers them to be part of the process and not just a spectator. Isn't that what our ultimate mission is as Planners?



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I began distributing these guides at a community resource event last week. I'm hoping to distribute a copy to every household in my community within two years. There's even discussion asking to conduct training sessions just on the concepts Sean has been able to put into print. People are "excited" and curious. Community Outreach achieved? Not yet but, it's gaining momentum.

I am a division of one. Minimal budget. Sound familiar?

With Sean Scott's guide educating, empowering and embracing disaster recovery our community is part of the process. No longer are the spectators; families and businesses are now a true part of the planning and response cycle. Doesn't this encompass the Whole Community concept and, more importantly, embrace resiliency through an active recovery process?

Get a copy of this guide. I promise you'll see this as an investment, not an expense.

Respectfully,

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