

Keynote: Situation Critical

Emergencies and disasters may not always be preventable, but the consequences and hazards can be significantly reduced if we prepare, mitigate, and have the right mind set. All too often the post disaster inquiry will show where we could have stopped or drastically reduced destruction and possibly saved more lives. Situational awareness, risk perception, and the normalization of deviance are concepts that need to be explored in today's diverse work environment. What if you could predict the future and stop it? What skills do we need as professionals to make sure we don't fall prey to complacency, tunnel vision, and team dysfunction? How do our own experiences shape our perceptions in a positive and or negative way during times of stress? This session will give an introduction to these concepts and help us understand how to prevent, prepare, and reduce our risk for a critical failure.

Speaker: Jay Shaw

Jay Shaw has been involved in the emergency services for over 18 years, working in hospital emergency rooms, rural EMS departments and the fire service. Currently Jay is in his 14th year as a member of the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service as a Firefighter Paramedic where he has been a part of both the technical rescue and water rescue teams. Jay writes for Firefighting in Canada Magazine and has been published in Canada and the US for article relating to the emergency services and disaster management. Currently Jay is seconded to assess and re-write the Fire Paramedic Services operational polices, and support the Winnipeg Emergency Preparedness Program.

Jay also consults for Workplace Education Manitoba as an independent education and training consultant focusing on assessing need, instruction design, and delivery in leadership, management and communication courses. Jay has done work with companies such as Boeing, New Flyer, American Bixaxis, as well as many smaller private companies.

Jay holds a Master's degree in Disaster and Emergency Management from Royal Roads University where his research interest is focused in risk perception and barriers to emergency preparedness.