

FEMA Professional Development Series (IS Courses)

Jayson A. Simmons

2017

Summary:

The Federal Emergency Management Administration's (FEMA's) Professional Development Series (PDS) includes seven independent study sessions designed to serve as the well-rounded fundamentals for those pursuing an emergency management career. The courses included are:

IS-120.c An Introduction to Exercises
IS-230.d Fundamentals of Emergency Management
IS-235.c Emergency Planning
IS-240.b Leadership and Influence
IS-241.b Decision Making and Problem Solving
IS-242.b Effective Communication
IS-244.b Developing and Managing Volunteers

This experience (or series of experiences):

Although these courses were a grade requirement in my Developing Emergency Management Skills class, there is no doubt that these courses were beneficial in helping me understand the fundamentals of emergency management. These combined courses accounted for 31 hours of training.

1. IS-120.c was beneficial in helping me understand the importance of exercises within emergency management and how they supplement the preparedness phase. Although exercises may seem like a self-explanatory item, there are different types of exercises ranging from tabletops to full scale that have varying requirements and purposes. I have used the knowledge laid out in the course to help me in my internship. I am currently working with the campus emergency manager to help with the planning and implementation of a full-scale, county wide exercise. In this exercise we will focus on the Arkansas Tech University emergency operation center activation and function. Additionally, first responders from the county will have the opportunity to practice their Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERT) with an active shooter scenario.
2. IS-230.d was supplemental in the information that I learned from the introduction classes from my emergency management degree. It laid out the principles that created the field of emergency management

and help explain why partners, core capabilities, mission areas, comprehensive plans, resources coordination, response, and the day to day functions of emergency management. Although this course serves as a broad course, it serves as the foundation for my knowledge and experience over the past four years.

3. IS-235.c was useful in engraining in my head the importance of emergency planning along with every single professor or class that I have ever taken. When it comes to emergency management, it is important to plan for all types hazards in order to protect life, property, and the environment.
4. IS-240.b was beneficial in preparing me for the many leadership positions that I would hold in the upcoming years. From president of red cross to president of the largest organization on campus and finally to student body president, I can always remember the lessons learned from the FEMA Leadership and Influence course. As an emergency manger, you will be in leadership positions whether you want to be or not and this course will begin to prepare you on how to lead a group, inspire change, build trust, use influence, and create a learning environment.
5. IS-241.b follows closely behind IS-240 Leadership and Influence. IS-241 focuses on decision making and problem solving. All emergency managers will be exposed to difficult decisions and problems that seem unsolvable. FEMA effectively focuses on how decisions are made, how to create group decision making, how to make decisions during a crisis, and how to make ethical decision. These topics are crucial to leaders and emergency managers.
6. IS-242.b educates the student about communication and it's importance. I struggle with communication in my everyday life and found the course helpful to say the least. Although it did not fix all of my communication problems. It has helped me understand its importance and the fundamentals. In my varying leadership responsibilities and coursework, I have had a plethora of public speaking experience that was influenced by this effective communication course.
7. IS-244.b focuses on the importance of volunteers within emergency management and how to make sure you are capitalizing their full potential. Many times, there are many volunteers that want to help after a disaster, but they have no guidance or direction and end up becoming a nuisance. This course helps emergency managers realize the capabilities of volunteers and teaches the importance of volunteer programs.

Emergency Management Institute



FEMA

This Certificate of Achievement is to acknowledge that

JAYSON A SIMMONS

has reaffirmed a dedication to serve in times of crisis through continued professional development and completion of the independent study course:

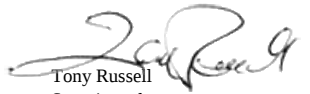
IS-00230.d

Fundamentals of Emergency Management

Issued this 26th Day of January, 2017



0.6 IACET CEU


Tony Russell
Superintendent
Emergency Management Institute

Emergency Management Institute



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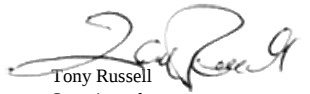
IS-00120.a

An Introduction to Exercises

Issued this 25th Day of January, 2017



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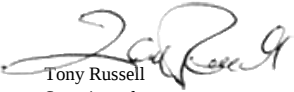
has reaffirmed a dedication to serve in times of crisis through continued professional development and completion of the independent study course:

**IS-00235.c
Emergency Planning**

Issued this 7th Day of February, 2017



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**IS-00241.b
Decision Making and Problem Solving**

Issued this 8th Day of February, 2017



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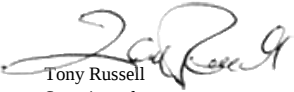
has reaffirmed a dedication to serve in times of crisis through continued professional development and completion of the independent study course:

**IS-00240.b
Leadership and Influence**

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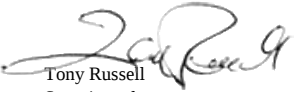
has reaffirmed a dedication to serve in times of crisis through continued professional development and completion of the independent study course:

**IS-00242.b
Effective Communication**

Issued this 13th Day of February, 2017



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IS-00244.b

Developing and Managing Volunteers

Issued this 13th Day of February, 2017



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FEMA

has reaffirmed through completion of the Emergency Management Institute's Professional Development Series a commitment to Standards of Excellence in Emergency Management.

Certificate of Achievement

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Emergency Management Institute