

# Recommended Open Educational Resources for a Community Service Principles Course in the field of Public Safety

By John Vette

## Course Topics:

### **Community Defined**

"Community." , directed by Alison Burns. , produced by Sally Bochner, and National Film Board of Canada. , National Film Board of Canada, 1995. Alexander Street, <https://video.alexanderstreet.com/watch/Community>.

*Community means a lot of different things to a lot of people. This video produced through the National Film Board of Canada is a 13 minute document style monograph where a diverse group of persons share their experiences as community members and what a community means to them. Each person offers a unique perspective to the viewer that helps facilitate the question for those in public safety, "what do you consider to be community?" Answering that question helps public safety members tailor to the needs of the community that they serve.*

### **EMS Community Partnerships**

"Importance of Partnerships." , directed by Anonymous , produced by United States. Federal Emergency Management Agency. , Privately Published, 2010. Alexander Street, <https://video.alexanderstreet.com/watch/importance-of-partnerships>.

*Partnerships are important for interoperability communications in the public safety sector. This 5 minute video has a panel of police and fire leadership explaining how important strong relationships are. Having partnerships can also save government costs, while updating to better technology. Partnerships can be hard work, but have substantial results.*

Network of the National Library of Medicine [NNLM]. "Public Libraries and First Responders Partners in Emergency Response." *YouTube*, YouTube, 5 Dec. 2016, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9W2FGgqH3o>.

*When you think of an emergency or disaster, the public library may not be the first thought that comes to mind. Yet there are several libraries throughout the USA, with library staff who excel with skill sets to organize, communicate, use technology and desire to serve the public. These*

*resource centers can assist in filling out FEMA forms or locating displaced relatives while hosting meeting rooms. The thesis of this video is to partner with local libraries to make plans for dealing with the next potential emergency situation in your community.*

tctvideoaccount, The Colorado Trust. "The Community Partnerships Process." YouTube, YouTube, 21 June 2017, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oDua409S5yc>.

*In Colorado, an ongoing project called the Colorado Trust's Community Partnership Process works to create communities within community to address a variety of social issues and advance the overall health equity where they thrive – living, working, and enjoying life. This video takes us through their process with examples from meetings, persons interviewed, and the roadmap to improving the quality of the life within their community.*

### **Police Community Partnerships**

Choi, K.R., O'Malley, C., Ijadi-Maghsoodi, R. *et al.* A Scoping Review of Police Involvement in School Crisis Response for Mental Health Emergencies. *School Mental Health* (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12310-021-09477-z>

*It may be commonly known that school resource officers serve in the school environment, and naturally are called to help students in crisis. The question, however, remains – do school officers serve an effective role in dealing with mental health issues? This article attempts to answer that question through existing research and lays out the perceived gaps in past data pointing to police effectiveness on youth mental health assistance.*

DOLEAC, JENNIFER, and ANNA HARVEY. "Policing and Public Safety: What Do the Experts Think?" Niskanen Center, 26 May 2021, <https://www.niskanencenter.org/policing-and-public-safety-what-do-the-experts-think/>.

*Within this article experts that are part of the Criminal Justice Expert Panel use their experience and research to discuss if police funding actually makes communities safer. This has been a recent topic with political calls to "defund the police" or efforts to reallocate resources to other areas such as mental health or social services. A polling process took place which displays the results of the expert's opinion about how certain topics, police funding, social service funding, and police accountability, will affect areas of public safety.*

## **Fire Community Partnerships**

Cannuscio, C.C., Davis, A.L., Kermis, A.D. *et al.* A Strained 9-1-1 System and Threats to Public Health. *J Community Health* **41**, 658–666 (2016). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10900-015-0142-x>

*Is 911 a system that is overused? Are other resources available that better serve persons in need? This paper brings forth the need for our country to understand the ongoing dependence on the 9-1-1 system to attend to non-emergent medical needs. This is critical because often 911 is used for routine concerns that are less than emergent, and it can be taxing on our system. Research with firefighters demonstrates that often elderly persons or those low income don't have or are unaware of other resources, so they resort to potentially overuse the 911 EMS system. This can cause stress in already overworked first responders, and divert resources from true emergencies.*

U.S. National Archives & DVIDS. "The Havelock Fire Department Uses Their Trucks as Static - U.S. National Archives & DVIDS Public Domain Search." U.S. National Archives & DVIDS, U.S. National Archives & DVIDS, 17 Apr. 2021, <https://nara.getarchive.net/media/the-havelock-fire-department-uses-their-trucks-as-static-d7202c>.

*Community relations are important, and this site demonstrates how the Havelock Fire Department utilizes their fire trucks as public displays during a National Night Out in North Carolina. National Night is a well-known community event in which neighborhood parties are gathered with appearances made by local police and fire agencies.*

## **Mission Statement (police/fire/EMS)**

Coleman, Ronny J. "Beware the Perils of Organizational Hypocrisy." *Fire Chief*, vol. 53, no. 7, July 2009, pp. 24–27. EBSCOhost, search-ebSCOhost-com.cenproxy.mnpals.net/login.aspx?direct=true&db=keh&AN=43564082&site=ehost-live .

*Many FIRE and EMS agencies have "mission statements." This author, who writes in the Fire Chief publication, points out that actual actions of these agencies often contradict their mission statement beliefs. This hypocrisy can be damaged in a field that serves the public. If the actions of the firefighting staff match up with their belief systems, then the hypocrisy is low and the*

*agency is better off. Agencies that choose not to curtail the hypocritical actions that don't match up with their mission statement belief systems will have undue stress and conflict.*

### **Public Safety Stakeholders**

Hodgkinson, T., Caputo, T. & McIntyre, M.L. Beyond crime rates and community surveys: a new approach to police accountability and performance measurement. *Crime Sci* **8**, 13 (2019).  
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s40163-019-0108-x>

*The safety of the public is key to the mission of law enforcement agencies. Historically, agencies have used crime statistics as their primary measure to determine success. In reality, police agencies serve many roles far outside of the scope of simply enforcing crime. These measurements often don't truly capture how successful police departments are performing. The concept in this article promotes the idea that stakeholders should be more directly involved in goal identification and performance assessment, with emphasis on accountability.*

### **Community Needs Assessment**

CaIEMATV, CAL OES. "Inside Look: California Preparedness." *YouTube*, YouTube, 19 July 2018, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QYLP86N6kLM> .

*California This creative commons licensed video details the California state operations center on how to prepare for wildfires. The viewer learns of the data tracked by California Office of Emergency Services (OES) and the resources available to combat large scale fires. This state organization works with counties and fire departments at the local level. Dynamics of fighting these fires have changed over the years, technology has advanced, and the speakers make comparisons on strategies to contain and combat them.*

"Community-Based Needs Assessment: Assisting Communities in Building a Stronger EMS System." *NTIS*, U.S. Department of Health and Human Service.,  
<https://ntrl.ntis.gov/NTRL/dashboard/searchResults/titleDetail/PB2009114571.xhtml> .

*Many rural emergency management services are comprised of volunteers, responding from jobs or regular walks of life. People that live in these communities, based upon their prior knowledge on how these systems works, expect a fast and competent response. The author believes that assessments are not often in place for rural EMS systems to ensure they are providing a quality*

*service. A better tool is needed to evaluate their strengths and weaknesses. Far more land in Minnesota is rural than urban, so this article makes much applicable points to the system in our state.*

### **Developing a Customer Service Assessment Program**

Mehmood, A., Rowther, A.A., Kobusingye, O. *et al.* Assessment of pre-hospital emergency medical services in low-income settings using a health systems approach. *Int J Emerg Med* **11**, 53 (2018). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12245-018-0207-6>

*Many serious health incidents such as strokes, heart attacks and injuries have strong implications early death if not addressed swiftly. This is where pre-hospital EMS systems come into play. When low-income areas have less than adequate resources, it affects pre-hospital care, fast transport or the inability to transport or all of the above. A better system needs to be in place to properly assess these systems and improve pre-hospital services in poor income areas. This article gives suggestions on creating an assessment tool.*

### **Serving Underrepresented Groups**

Lee, EunSu, et al. "Statewide Ambulance Coverage of a Mixed Region of Urban, Rural and Frontier under Travel Time Catchment Areas." MDPI, Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute, 5 Mar. 2021, <https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/18/5/2638/htm>.

*A study was done examining EMS services in several states from the perspective of public health planners, health policy makers and ambulance service administrators. Considerations of urban, rural, and frontier areas were examined. Chute time is described in EMS as the time from when the call is dispatched to the time when an emergency vehicle drives to the target location. This study shows service is improved greatly in certain areas (urban, etc) by increasing driving and chute time. Using Geographic Information Systems and backup coverage systems can help assess ambulance travel time.*

CHALFIN, AARON, et al. "When Cities Add Cops, Black Residents Could Have the Most to Gain - and the Most to Lose." Niskanen Center, 21 May 2021, <https://www.niskanencenter.org/when-cities-add-cops-black-residents-could-have-the-most-to-gain-and-the-most-to-lose/>

*This article takes the two-sided approach that the presence of officers in African American neighborhoods can add an extra safety component, while yet housing fears of inequitable policing. The overall thesis is that regardless of race, most citizens don't want to get rid of*

*defund police, but rather have police forces with a better commitment to community equity focus.*

### **Public Safety Equity**

EMS Agenda 2050 Technical Expert Panel. (2019, January). EMS Agenda 2050: A People-Centered Vision for the Future of Emergency Medical Services (Report No. DOT HS 812 664). Washington, DC: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

<https://www.ems.gov/pdf/EMS-Agenda-2050.pdf>

*EMS Agenda 2050 was a multi-year collaborative effort to plan Emergency Medical Services for decades to come. An updated agenda for the future focuses on people-centered services when updating EMS systems. This 58-page document holds socially equitable standards for the future and covers EMS in many categories. I can see this document being used for several different portions of this course.*

### **Future trends in public safety**

Saghafian M, Laumann K, Akhtar RS and Skogstad MR (2020) The Evaluation of Virtual Reality Fire Extinguisher Training. *Front. Psychol.* 11:593466.

<https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2020.593466>

*Virtual reality has been a technology used to aid in several different societal areas. Examples include sports, space, air flight training, and more. This should be no different with the Fire Service. This recent article (2020) details the evaluation of VR Fire Service training currently being used and offers illustrations. Students who have not been exposed to this should have a better understanding of how it works and what value and limitations this form of training holds.*

### **Recruitment / Retention in police fire ems**

Chadwick, Heather. "Fire Departments Launch Snohomish County Fire Training Academy." News of Mill Creek, 26 Mar. 2018, <http://www.newsofmillcreek.com/content/fire-departments-launch-snohomish-county-fire-training-academy>.

*The Snohomish County Fire Service has growing hire needs that have outpaced what their state academy can offer. As a result, an initiative was set up amongst several Fire agencies to recruit, hire, and train a mass amount of fire service first responders in a collaborative effort. In*

*addition to preparing fire fighters for future work, the academy itself brings natural relationships amongst attendees that will be beneficial in future mutual aid calls for service.*

### **Media Disaster Communication**

“Crisis Communications Summit: Working with the Media during Emergencies: Fairfax County Government : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming.” Internet Archive, Fairfax County Government, 24 Oct. 2014, [https://archive.org/details/Crisis\\_Communications\\_Summit\\_-\\_Working\\_with\\_the\\_Media\\_During\\_Emergencies](https://archive.org/details/Crisis_Communications_Summit_-_Working_with_the_Media_During_Emergencies).

*Most in the public safety realm would agree that working with the media in emergencies can be vital. This article highlights the Fairfax county government’s relationship with media members to unite together to better community to the public changing news during a mass crisis.*