

## **EPT 124 Emergency Management Services Law and Ethics**

### **Course Description**

This course covers federal and state laws that affect emergency service personnel in the event of a natural disaster or terrorist incident. Topics include initial response and long-term management strategies, with an emphasis on legal and ethical considerations and coordination between local, state, and federal agencies. Upon completion, students should have an understanding of the role of private industry, government agencies, public policies, and federal/state declarations of disasters in emergency situations.

Course Hours Per Week: Class, 3; Lab, 0, Credit: 3

Prerequisite: None

Corequisite: None

### **Course Objectives:**

- a. Describe and have a basic understanding of US Code Title 42, Chapter 68 Disaster relief, or the Stafford Act and the disaster ordinances, the federal law that covers disaster relief and addresses typical situations and legal implications involved in federal emergencies.
- b. Describe aspects of National Emergency Powers as depicted in the Congressional Research Service (CRS) Report prepared for Congress.
- c. Identify and understand the Ethics of Duty (deontology).
- d. Describe the roles and responsibilities of private industry and the laws that influence private industry in an emergency situation.
- e. Identify significant aspects of Contract Law.
- f. Describe and understand the impact of public policy with regards to incident management.
- g. Define and describe what is considered a "State of Emergency."
- h. Describe the terms, conditions, and legalities of Title 10 (Federalized National Guard).
- i. Identify legal issues and procedures involved in mandatory and non-mandatory evacuations.
- j. Develop an understanding of Environmental Law as it relates to incident management.
- k. Identify factors and implications of municipal, county, state, and federal/tribal laws on incident management.

## Outline of Instruction

- I. Emergency Management Law
  - a. Defining Disaster
  - b. Organizing Disaster law and Policy
  
- II. Causes of Disaster
  - a. Modern Economic Conditions
  - b. Population Growth and Demographic Trends
  - c. Land Use Decisions
  - d. Green and Build Infrasrucure
  - e. Climate Change
  
- III. Federal Power and Response to Disaster
  - a. The U.S. Constitution: Federal and State Power to Response to Disasters
  - b. Federalism
  - c. The Federal Statutory Scheme
  
- IV. Emergency Response
  - a. The Federal Emergency Regulatory Scheme
  - b. State and Regional Emergency Response
  - c. Private and Nongovernmental Response
  - d. Reforming the Law of Emergency Response
  
- V. Social Vulnerability
  - a. Disasters as a Function of Injustice
  - b. Race, Class, and Injustice
  - c. Age, Disability, and Immigrant Status
  - d. Price-Gouging after Natural Disasters
  
- VI. Evaluating and Responding to Risk
  - a. Evaluating Risks
  - b. Determining the Appropriate Response to Risks
  
- VII. Compensation and Risk Spreading
  - a. Tort Law and Victim Compensation
  - b. Flood Insurance
  - c. Private Insurance
  - d. Designing Insurance for Catastrophic Risk
  
- VIII. Recovering From Disaster

- a. The Basics of Recovery
  - b. Reducing Vulnerability
  - c. Increasing Resilience
  - d. Land Acquisition
  - e. Lessons from the Past
- IX. International Disaster Law and Policy
- a. Geography of Disaster
  - b. Ecology and Exposure
  - c. Social Vulnerability
  - d. International Law and International Aid

**Required Textbook and Materials:**

Textbooks to be selected by instructor

**Statement of Students with Disabilities:**

Students who require academic accommodations due to any physical, psychological, or learning disability are encouraged to request assistance from a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Likewise, students who potentially require emergency medical attention due to any chronic health condition are encouraged to disclose this information to a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. If you have a disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please contact the Disability Services office by calling 919-536-7207, emailing [disabilityservices@durhamtech.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@durhamtech.edu), or visiting room 10-209 in the Wynn Center (Building 10) for additional information regarding requirements for arranging accommodations.