



The First Ten Plays

HOW TO BECOME AN EMERGENCY MANAGER*

- **Develop an explicit strengths and weakness chart of your previous experience. Decide how to build on strengths and improve the weaknesses. Develop an action plan. You need a strong resume.**
- **Evaluate your communications skills: writing, speaking, and listening.**
- **Develop strong computer and technology skills. This is a field being constantly updated with new devices and equipment.**
- **Interview at least six emergency managers from various disciplines to assess if the work (especially the long hours), the work environment, and the constant training requirements suit your work goals.**
- **If you have substantial experiences related to the profession, but no formal emergency management training seek out initial training from organizations like the American Red Cross and the online training courses from the Federal Emergency Management Agency at:**
<http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslst.asp>
- **Participate in local community programs like Neighborhood Watch, Community Emergency Response Teams, HAM radio volunteers, Search and Rescue volunteers, etc. There are also many fine non-profits and faith-based organizations that allow volunteers to join and assist in planning, training, and actual emergency support operations. A fine list of volunteer organizations can be found at the site for the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD):**
<http://www.nvoad.org/membersdb.php?members=National>
- **Volunteer during emergencies at your community volunteer center. See:**
http://www.pointsoflight.org/centers/find_center.cfm
- **Evaluate getting a degree from a university or college:**
<http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/edu/collegelist/>
- **Take citizen courses for local law enforcement and ride-along programs. Learn to serve on an ambulance by getting an EMT certificate. Join a volunteer fire department.**
- **Read about various types of emergency management professionals at professional emergency manager organization sites—see a basic listing at this vendors site: (about half-way down the page)**
http://www.business.com/directory/energy_and_environment/environment/emergency_management/organizations/

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** These are not listed in order of importance but as a group of materials that will increase the possibility of positive outcomes.*