MANAGING THE MESSAGE

Pacific Northwest

CRISIS COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP

The Cowlitz County Sheriff’s Office and the Department of Emergency Management, in cooperation with Lower Columbia College and our local supporters, would like to invite you to join us on **Wednesday, September 26th**, for a rare opportunity to learn from internationally acclaimed emergency media experts. Australia’s Peter Rekers and Rebecca Riggs join forces with the United Kingdom’s Chris Webb, offering a meaningful program illustrating how to *Manage the Message* before, during and after crisis. The day’s workshop will include an introduction and regionally-framed scenario in concert with the Port of Kalama and the Port of Longview. Speaker, program and additional information is provided below.

A separate, follow-on Table-Talk Evening Event is offered for those wishing to exchange their thoughts on best practices in a conversation with our international Speakers. Please see detail below.

**Space is limited.** Please direct all sponsor, registration requests and inquiries to: cowlitz.dem.training@gmail.com, or call Lorraine Churchill at 360.577.3130. Registration application information is attached.

**Workshop Includes:**

- The Role of Information in Emergency, Disaster, and Crisis
- The Place of Information in the Command and Response Structure
- The Difference Between Strategic and Tactical Information
- Collaborative Communication: Working With Other Agencies and Their Information Teams
- Building Understanding of and Approaches to Emergency Communications Plans, Roles and How to Develop Effective Strategies
- Credibility and Leadership in Crisis
- Messaging in Emergency - including for resistant audiences – providing tailored messaging
- The Stories We Tell - working with communities and narrative before, during and after disaster
- Speaking Brilliantly - spokesperson performance training
- Understanding the Media
- Understanding How Society Responds and Connects Through Social Media
- Simple Methods to Develop Effective Communication Strategies and Ensure Consistency
- The Difference Between an Emergency, a Disaster and a Crisis
- Crisis Management Techniques and Case Studies
- Panel Discussion and Debrief
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Who Should Come:

• Any partner concerned with the impact of information upon public perception
• Industry communications practitioners likely to be involved in emergencies, disasters or crises
• Public Information Officers, Public or External Affairs Officers
• Government and Agency Leaders responsible for or affected by public information functions
• Emergency service officers with public information responsibilities
• Has your organization been impacted by perception? Come join us!

September 26th Workshop Schedule:

8:00 – 8:30 a.m.  Registration and Seating
8:30 – 9:00 a.m.  Welcome and Introductions
9:00 – 10:00 a.m.  Ports Discussion and Overview
10:00 – 10:15 a.m.  -break-
10:15 – 11:30 a.m.  Case Studies Introduction
11:30 – Noon   Lunch [provided on site]
Noon – 4:00 p.m.  Workshop
4:00 – 4:30 p.m.  Panel Discussion
4:30 – 5:00 p.m.  Debrief and Closing Statements

Workshop Costs:  Workshop Location:

Parking passes included  Lower Columbia College
Lunch on site included  1600 Maple Street
Registration for Workshop: $195.00 per person  Longview, WA 98632
Table-Talk Evening Event

**Table-Talk Evening Event Details & Cost:**

- 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- No-host bar; coffee, tea, water included
- Hearty assortment of hors d'oeuvres with dessert and hot selection: $55 per person

**Table-Talk Location:**

- McMenamins Kalama Harbor Lodge
- 215 Hendrickson Drive
- Kalama, WA 98625

A limited, courtesy block of rooms are available on a first come, first serve basis. Kalama Harbor Lodge room rates are compliant with published 2018 GSA rates. Rooms are no-host and the responsibility of the guest.

**Please see attached for Speaker Information and Registration Application**
With over 30 years emergency experience, Peter Rekers is professionally recognized as being one of the most veteran and polished crisis management specialists in Australia. His experience encompasses developing crisis management communications systems and risk management systems for private and public sectors, to operational experience in war zones as a senior communications officer, to being a Spokesperson for various agencies and Governments, to coordinating the communication strategy for Tropical Cyclones for the Queensland Government.

Peter has served in senior management roles at Brisbane City Council, State and Federal Departments and is the founding CEO of the non-profit Emergency Media and Public Affairs (EMPA) group. EMPA delivers conferences in New Zealand and Australia, channeling profits into research. It also exists to lead and support the evolution of effective communication and community engagement before, during and after emergencies, by providing a network for all interested in emergency communications. EMPA strives to bring together like-minded people progressing the art of emergency public communications through these annual Conferences and advocates for international standardization of policies and approaches that impact communication in disasters to save lives.

Peter also served as a Lieutenant Commander in the Australian Navy and completed two operational postings in 2003 to Iraq as a Public Affairs Officer. In HMAS Kanimbila, Peter was deployed during the Iraq invasion, which earned the Meritorious Unit Citation for the Ship’s actions. His role was to advise the Australian Navy Task Group Commander on all media and Public Affairs issues and lead a small public affairs team. Later in 2003, Peter deployed to Baghdad to run the Coalition Press Information Center, coordinating all media relations, conferences and services for the Coalition in Iraq. This included media management during the 2003 UN Headquarters bombing and liaising with up to 450 in-country media personnel. Peter’s time in the Navy was also spent as a Naval Police Officer where he led the Naval Investigations Security Intelligence Cell, headed the Naval Investigation Service and other security and policing roles. His training included focus with the Australian Federal Police in Investigations and Bomb Search.

Peter helps organizations become Crisis Ready through planning, training, simulations and live support. Examples from around the world range from the Asian Community Mental Health Leadership Forum in Singapore, to the World Conference on Disaster Management in Toronto, to the FEMA External Affairs Conference in Washington, D.C., and the National Emergency, Crisis and Disaster Authority Conference in Abu Dhabi. Peter looks forward to joining us in the Pacific Northwest and sharing best practices between us each.
As the Principal of HighGround Communication, Rebecca empowers leaders to respond to the challenges of both adversity and growth. She brings capacity to communicate in crisis, emergency and disaster, and to facilitate organizational change. She works to examine how the stories we tell ourselves define us and impact on our ability to transform our expectations, our environments and ourselves. Narrative, motivation, connection, complexity, symbols and values are her stock in trade. She balances and integrates theory and practice; policy, plans and actions; and organizational perspectives with community needs.

Rebecca also empowers those whose role it is to speak to and for their organizations. She supports them in finding the insights necessary to find the unique, authentic teller of story that they need to be; to give them the capacity to change and grow their own story, and to share those changes in ways that resonate and ignite a spark.

She has worked with emergency management and communities before, during and after disasters. Rebecca has worked on the front line, communicating during disasters and emergencies as spokesperson and public information officer and has trained emergency managers and practitioners as well as corporate crisis communicators from: Australia, Singapore, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, China, Thailand, New Zealand and Bhutan.

Her research project - Understanding Resistance to Disaster Messaging, with Dr. Lynda Shevellar has been published in AJEM (Australian Journal of Emergency Management). She is a Fellow and active member of EMPA (Emergency Media and Public Affairs), has been appointed the Co-Chair of the EMPA Knowledge and Development Committee and is a Fellow of the Centre for Emergency and Disaster Management (CEDM).

Rebecca has worked with sectors as varied as mining and child care, defense and water utilities. She has lectured at universities in Queensland and NSW and trained countless professionals on the importance of messaging and detailing the impact of narrative on who we think we are – and what we can become.
Chris is the former Head of News and Deputy Director of Public Affairs at the Metropolitan Police Service. He is recognized as one of the United Kingdom’s leading experts in crisis management and crisis communication, having dealt with almost every major incident and high profile security event to impact on London in nearly 30 years.

He now provides crisis communication advice, support and training to public and private sector organizations through his company CriComm.

Chris has played a major role in advising and influencing the police services, law enforcement agencies and Governments (both nationally and internationally) on crisis communication policy, structures, plans and training.

He has sat on a number of the UK’s disaster response and emergency planning committees including the Government’s crisis emergency group COBRA, the Cabinet Office Media Emergency Forum (MEF) and the Home Office Counter Terrorism Group. He chaired, for 10 years, the London Resilience GOLD Communication Group with the Heads of Communication from the other emergency services and lead responding agencies.

In 2014 Chris was appointed the strategic comms lead for the NATO Summit in Wales and in 2013 undertook a similar role for the G8 summit of world leaders in Northern Ireland. In 2012, he led the policing and security comms response for the London Olympics and Paralympics at a national level.

In July 2005, he was appointed the strategic comms lead for all the emergency services to manage and direct the national and international media and communication response to the London bombings.

In the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks he was asked by Government Ministers to head a working group to look at how the UK would handle a multi-sited terrorist attack. The plans he developed were adopted nationally by all emergency services.

At the request of the Foreign Office, Chris has assisted a number of overseas countries in the management of high profile events, including the Cricket World Cup in the Caribbean (2007), Greek terror attacks (2003), Athens Olympics (2004) and Asian Tsunami (2004).

He lectures regularly on crisis communication and disaster management both at home and abroad.
Please send the below noted information to initiate your application to: cowlitz.dem.training@gmail.com

You may also call Lorraine Churchill at 360.577.3130.

Your First and Last Name: _______________________ __________________
Your Preferred Email: __________________________ _______________
Your Preferred Phone Number: _____________________ ____________________
Your Agency, Company or Organization: ________________ __________________________
Your Role: __________________________________________________________________
Your Agency’s, Company’s or Organization’s Address and Phone Number: _________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
Your Selection: ___Workshop: $195 per person ___Table-Talk Event: $55 per person

Do you have a Key Concern/ What Keeps You Up At Night crisis communications question? Please feel encouraged to let us know- we’ll work to incorporate your feedback! This is a high-contact, high-value workshop: please let us know how we might address your needs:
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

An invoice will be emailed to you enabling online payment for your selection[s] to confirm your attendance. For any questions please contact us early so we can help in this short timeline.

Special thanks to Emergency Response Resources LLC, and Square Inc., for their assistance.