

2024 Quad Cities Regional Disaster Conference

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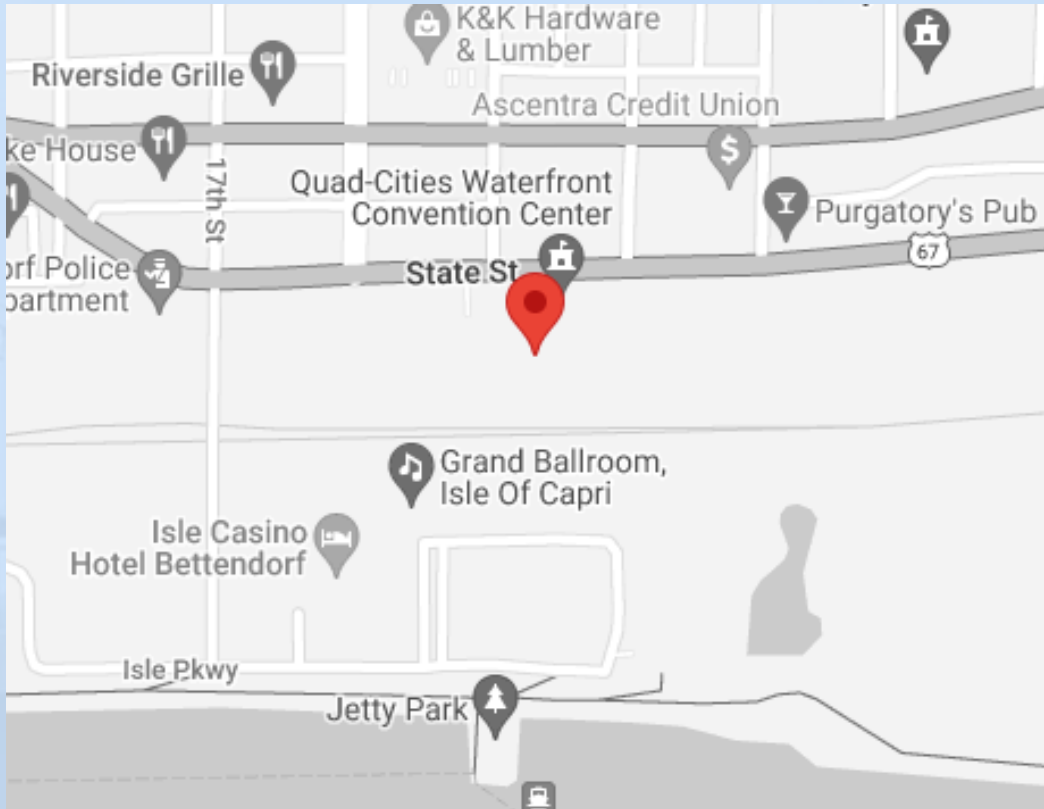
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When + Where

April 2, 2024
8 A.M. to 4 P.M.

The Waterfront
Convention Center
2021 State Street
Bettendorf, IA 52722

Where to Stay

1777 Isle Parkway
Bettendorf, IA 52722
Phone: 563-441-7000

<https://www.caesars.com/isle-bettendorf>

Getting There

The Quad Cities
Waterfront
Convention Center is
connected via skywalk
to the Isle Casino
Hotel and has access
to 509 suites and
hotel rooms.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Anticipating the Unthinkable
Mission Director, “I love u guys” Foundation, Sandy
Hook Parent



Carly Posey

Carly tells her story of no one being prepared for what happened inside Sandy Hook Elementary School on December 14, 2012. She shares what went wrong and right on that day and the days and years to follow. She shares her perspective on the events and how a community can be proactive and be prepared for the unthinkable. Carly gives real solutions on school safety, reunification, and recovery in the aftermath. Carly shares her journey through the unthinkable, focusing on relationships and the positive outcomes. She has spoken to thousands of community members and is honored to have a part in improving school safety.

Reunification:

Reunification is a gap in most school’s safety plan. Carly shares her story at the Firehouse on December 14, 2012 along with lessons learned. She also touches on the Standard Response Protocol and the Standard Reunification Method created by The “I Love U Guys” Foundation.

Recovery in the Aftermath of Sandy Hook:

Carly focuses on the recovery and mental health of her and her family. She shares how her and her husband are helping all of their four children, with different experiences on Dec. 14, 2012, recover and turn the negative events into life-long resiliency. She shares how they fostered relationships in their new community, and how that has been the number one help in her family’s recovery journey.

Carly also details strategies they helped institute in their children’s classrooms and at home that are still used today to overcome hard times, to live in the moment and have an optimistic attitude.

Panel Discussions and Q and A sessions:

Carly has been a part of many panels and Q and A sessions.

SPEAKERS



BRIAN NELSON

Principal
Consultant,
911Nurd



JASON WILSON

Illinois state
trooper, safety
education officer



DIOGENES AYALA

Emergency
Management &
Homeland
Security Director



STEVE BARRY

EMS/Cartoonist



CARLY POSEY



Mission Director, “I Love U Guys” Foundation



SPEAKER BIO

Carly Posey is a national speaker and advocate for school safety. Two of her four children were inside Sandy Hook Elementary School when an armed man entered the building on December 14, 2012. The shooter made his way to her son’s first grade classroom, killing his teacher and a classmate. When he stopped to re-load, her son escaped, running to a nearby fire station. Her daughter, who remained hidden inside an art room office, also survived, but the lessons learned were significant. Carly’s other two children were at the intermediate school in Newtown where they were in lockdown the entire school day. The lack of preparedness within the community to respond and recover to such an incident left a lasting impression.

Today, as Mission Director for the “I Love U Guys” Foundation, Carly travels the country sharing her story to promote school safety and preparedness. Her experiences as a parent and a community member provide a compelling, often heartbreaking, case study for the need to prepare for the unthinkable. Carly has previously served as the Executive Director for the Safe2Tell Nonprofit and as Program Director for Anderson Software. She now lives in Colorado with her husband, Dave, and their four children.



BRIAN NELSON

SPEAKER BIO



Principal Consultant, 911Nurd, LLC.

Originally born and raised in the Iowa Quad Cities, Brian began his career in the Army. While enlisted, he served in multiple overseas deployments while also learning more about this new concept of technology. After 10 dedicated years, he retired from the Army and began his technology career in the private sector. He joined a privately held software development start-up company and seized many opportunities presented by the rise of the .COM era and the Y2K bug. Brian actively contributed to and led various IT projects for prominent entities such as John Deere, Alcoa, and, most notably, Rock Island County 911. He then moved from the software company directly to Rock Island County ETSB.

For the past 25 years, Brian has been integral in modernizing the Rock Island County Public Safety (911) systems. In the beginning, he led the initiative of taking paper centric 911 processes and driving them to fully systemized, technologically advanced and connectivity support for all aspects of public safety. He took on projects that included employing emergency alerts technology, upgrading primary phone and computer communication means for all public safety officials and implementing the first text to 911 system in the Quad Cities. His most rewarding accomplishment was leading the full emergency response system software migration across various agencies impacting Rock Island County during the pandemic.

In 2023, Brian took on the role of a Public Safety Technology Consultant. Leveraging his wealth of experience and technological expertise, Brian now works in a multitude of counties and states to provide strategic insights and innovative solutions to enhance public safety systems. He has a proven track record for a holistic approach to all facets of technology to ensure effectiveness, reliability, integration, and communication across multi sector public safety professions.

In his spare time, Brian can be found spending time with his wife, two daughters and two dogs. As an avid hockey fan, frequently found cheering for “his” team – the Detroit Red Wings. He can’t stray too far away from his technology calling as he can be frequently found tinkering with new network/technology upgrades around the house and helping his friends and family with their technology projects.



TROOPER JASON WILSON



SPEAKER BIO

Trooper Jason Wilson started his career in 2000 by entering the Illinois State Police Training Academy. Once graduated, Trooper Wilson was assigned to the Tollway and patrolled the North Tri-State from 2000-2004. In the summer of 2004, he accepted a transfer to District 7 (the Quad Cities). In 2007, Trooper Wilson took on the role of Safety Education Officer, where he remains to this day.

Trooper Wilson has been an Emergency Medical Responder Instructor since 2006 and a Rapid Deployment Instructor since 2020. He has also been assigned to the Northern Region Crowd Control Team and has been deployed to multiple call-outs throughout the state from 2005-2020.

Throughout his career, Trooper Wilson has obtained multiple certifications: Instructor Development, School Safe, Child Passenger Safety Technician, AHA CPR/Heart Saver Instructor, ALICE/Active Shooter Instructor, and Threat Assessment Recognition.

Since 2014, Trooper Wilson has spoken in front of over 100,000 participants. His safety programs include: Internet Safety, Human Trafficking, Driver's Education (DUI, Distracted Driving, Speed and Seatbelts), Personal Safety, Scam Awareness, and he is most passionate about Civilian Active Killer Response.

Some of the highlights for Trooper Wilson's career include three Departmental Life Saving Awards and a Unit Citation for Crowd Control Deployment. He has received multiple citations for his efforts in Safety Education and Traffic Enforcement. He has also earned two national First Place awards from the Uniformed Safety Education Officers Workshop for Active Shooter (2013) and Police/Public Relations (2015) presentations and Third Place finishes for Teens' Decision Making (2017) and Internet Safety (2019). Trooper Wilson was named Illinois State Police District 7 2018 Trooper of the Year and Illinois State Police 2019 Safety Education Officer of the Year.

Wilson remained an active trooper in District 7 continuing with traffic enforcement, crash investigations and general patrol function until August of 2021 when he accepted a transfer to the Public Information/Safety Education Office. He now manages the Safety Education Unit as the acting Sergeant and travels across the state presenting safety education programs.

Off duty Trooper Wilson trains at QC Krav Maga to continue learning techniques for self defense against armed and unarmed assailants since 2020. He also travels across the country as an instructor for BRAKES (Be Responsible And Keep Everyone Safe) Teen Advanced Skills Driving School.



DIOGENES AYALA



Emergency Management &
Homeland Security Director



SPEAKER BIO

Diogenes Ayala currently serves as the Emergency Management & Homeland Security Director for Madison County, Iowa. In this pivotal role, he shoulders the responsibilities of planning, protecting, mitigating, responding to, and coordinating all potential hazards that could impact the community. His primary objective is to instill a culture of preparedness among Madison County's residents and visitors. Mr. Ayala has an impressive track record of executing numerous operations, exercises, and threat assessments as part of his directorial duties.

Prior to his current position, Mr. Ayala held the position of Director of Criminal Justice at Southwestern Community College. In this capacity, he played a crucial role in delivering education, training, and mentorship to undergraduate students aspiring to pursue careers in public safety. Before venturing into the realm of emergency management and public safety, Mr. Ayala dedicated eighteen years of his career to the telecommunications field, with a focus on business continuity and disaster recovery operations.

In March of 2022, Mr. Ayala demonstrated exceptional leadership when he led recovery operations following an EF4 tornado that resulted in fatalities and extensive property damage in Madison County. This tornado was the deadliest to hit Iowa since 2008 and ranked as the second longest tornado in the state's history, covering a staggering 70-mile path. The recovery efforts engaged over one thousand volunteers over the course of sixty days, encompassing debris removal and sheltering. As a testament to his outstanding contributions, Mr. Ayala was honored as the 2022 Iowa Emergency Manager of the Year.

Mr. Ayala, a distinguished veteran of the United States Navy, holds both undergraduate and graduate degrees in Criminal Justice from Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa. He is also an esteemed member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated. His commitment to professional development is evident through his completion of the Texas A&M Infrastructure Protection Program, Executive Leadership Education from the University of Notre Dame, and Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Operations & Technician training from the Department of Homeland Security Center of Domestic Preparedness.

Further showcasing his dedication to enhancing security and preparedness, Mr. Ayala is a graduate of The Bomb-Making Materials Awareness Program (BMAP) and Enhanced Trainer program, which is a counterterrorism bombing prevention initiative sponsored by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)'s Office for Bombing Prevention. Currently, he is pursuing further education as a graduate student at the Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Homeland Defense and Security.



STEVE BERRY



NREMT-P, Emergency Medical Services,
Emergency Medical Technician

SPEAKER BIO

Steve has been in EMS for the past 37 years and is currently a working paramedic and instructor for Southwest Teller County EMS in Colorado. Believing humor is an essential amino acid in surviving pre-hospital care, Steve has written over 300 humor articles for both JEMS and EMS World magazines and has drawn over 2,000 cartoons illustrating the humorous side of EMS. As both a national and international speaker for emergency health care providers, Steve seeks world peace and frequent flyer mileage.



Learning Objectives

By the end of the program participants should be able to:



Anticipating the Unthinkable, Carly Posey—90 Minutes

- Discuss the importance of reunification and accountability planning following a large scale evacuation.
- Discuss the mental health recovery following a traumatic event.
- Discuss the value of instilling resiliency and optimism in daily life to be prepared for traumatic situations.



Ransomware Attack!, Brian Nelson—45 Minutes

- Present the dangers of cyber attacks and how easily a whole system can be infected.
- Identify the need to train staff and partners on cybersecurity.
- Discuss the need for redundancy and the steps to take in your workstation is attacked.



Human Trafficking, What I didn't Know, Jason Wilson—60 Minutes

- Define Human Trafficking
- Identify signs of human trafficking
- Learn steps to take to help combat human trafficking



Madison County Tornado Response, Diogenese Ayala—90 Minutes

- Discuss steps to prepare your community for a tornado
- Identify lessons learned to improve or add to your emergency response plan
- Apply tactics from the stories of survival and heroism on the 5th of March 2022



“If a Life is Worth Saving, It Must Be Worth Living”, Steve Berry—60 Minutes

- Define and differentiate between negative humor and healthy forms of humor.
- Identify the barriers to humor for emergency health providers
- Describe the benefits humor can provide in our daily lives.
- Recognize humor as a skill that must be learned and developed.
- List a variety of techniques to implement humor in the workplace.



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