

## Preface

The Instructor Guide (IG) entitled *The Social Dimensions of Disaster*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition is a resource for professors who are planning a course for college or university students. The recommended topics, reading assignments, and student exercises are appropriate for juniors or seniors who are majoring or minoring in emergency management, a related field like sociology or public administration, or who are enrolled in an emergency management certificate program. This course may be offered within an emergency management, sociology, public administration, or related department.

In the fall of 1996, the first IG for college and university faculty interested in emergency management was released through the Emergency Management Institute, Federal Emergency Management Agency. It was titled “Social Dimensions of Disaster.” It was developed within the context of the FEMA Higher Education Project which subsequently has supported numerous additional IG’s on related topics, e.g., “Terrorism and Emergency Management”; “Political and Policy Basis of Emergency Management”; and “Emergency Management Principles and Application for Tourism, Hospitality, and Travel Management Industries.” During the preparation of these and others, much was learned.

Since the spring of 1996 when substantive work on the original version of *Social Dimensions of Disaster* was ended, much has changed. The attacks of 9-11 produced substantial rethinking and stimulated the creation of the Department of Homeland Security within which the FEMA now functions. Hundreds of new research studies were completed which explored new issues, introduced new conclusions and confirmed findings documented previously.

The **second edition** of *Social Dimensions of Disasters* reflects these changes. More specifically, five types of change were incorporated: 1) updated organizational structures and policies, e.g., Department of Homeland Security; 2) updated research, e.g., all of the recommended readings for students are new; 3) three new sessions were added, (i.e., No. 5 – “Terrorism: Changing Threat Perceptions and Response Preparedness”; No. 27 – “Disaster Inequalities”; and No. 28 – “Tourism and Disaster: Preparedness, Response and Impacts”); 4) a more user friendly format was adopted (i.e., lecture notes are topical and succinct); and 5) an active student role was incorporated (i.e., every session contains substantively based exercises requiring student participation).

An extensive bibliography comprises the Appendix to this IG. This bibliography emphasizes items published since 1990 although a few materials of historical significance are included. For a comprehensive bibliography of publications dated prior to 1985, users should consult *Human System Response to Disaster: An Inventory of Sociological Findings* (Thomas E. Drabek. 1986. New York: Springer-Verlag).

To review additional IGs produced by the FEMA Higher Education Project, visit the following Internet site: [www.training.fema.gov/emiweb/edu/completeCourses.asp](http://www.training.fema.gov/emiweb/edu/completeCourses.asp)

Further information may be obtained from:

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