

Preface

Over the past decade, empirical works discussing servant leadership for the emergency services have been published; however, they primarily focus on the responder. This book advances these works, focusing now on how the practice of servant leadership actually works within the emergency services and the benefits derived from it. Though this work can be used at all levels, it is specific to command level leaders within the emergency services career field.

To bring the power of this philosophical approach toward leadership to life, this work grounds itself in the foundational aspects of identified servant leadership characteristics (Spears 2010), virtuous constructs (Patterson 2003), and attributes (Laub 1999). The text demonstrates how the many aspects of the philosophy come together as a system in order to strengthen the community of responders. Additionally, this work attempts to make the case to industry and academia with regard to increasing servant leadership-specific curriculum for current and aspiring emergency service officers.

Each chapter goes in depth on the different aspects as they relate to executive level leadership, their impact on responders, and the successes realized by servant leaders. Chapter summaries offer case studies and questions as meditative exercises, giving the reader a rich secondary learning experience that comes from the reflective critical thinking process. Furthermore, the work grounds itself in existing empirical works involving both servant leadership and its place within the emergency services profession with the hope of bringing to life the philosophy in order for readers to glean a richer understanding of the concepts.

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