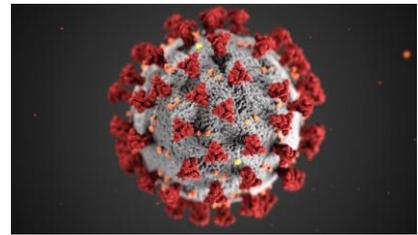


A NOTE FROM MY B.U.D.\*

## Working Remotely – As Usual...



By Kevin Gerarden

It seems like nearly every company, business, organization, etc., whether posting on their front door, homepage, or email blast, has issued their statement regarding their response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is basically a good and wise move; we have realized early on that this event has suddenly redefined the year 2020 and has the potential to ripple its effects for decades to come. We all have much to risk, and much of that risk can and should be minimized however we can.

I could come out with my own version – stating how I'm following CDC guidelines, limiting my contact with at-risk segments of the population, etc. – and though I'm doing my best to engage in 'all of the above', there are a few thoughts I'd like to share that may be reassuring to all of you in the emergency services and the training community:

- We are prepared to operate as your Society in the context of working remotely; the activities throughout most of our calendar can be managed via distance techniques, such as online dues payments, conference-call Board meetings, Members Zone discussion forums, and email news blasts.
- I can continue most of the work from my B.U.D., as it is located within my home, and is thus exempt from the business closure ordered this week by Governor Evers. With that in mind, I must advise that mail and banking will slow down to a pace that coincides with my other essential errands during this stay-at-home period. Please bear with us in those areas of activity.
- We treasure (and always have) the personal contact and connectedness our Society has both provided and found in our programs and activities; it is my sincere hope that some of your remote time can be shared with us using the techniques mentioned above to recapture some of that connectedness and foster the spirit of networking our Society has enjoyed since its founding.

Meanwhile, I can pledge to all of you that I'll do everything I can to keep the Society vital and relevant, even at a distance, for its members, its customers, and its partner organizations. Please let me know if there is anything you'd like to see in this area.

Thanks!

Kevin G.

\*A Note From My B.U.D. (Big Ugly Desk) threatens to be a quarterly feature for the newsletter of the Wisconsin Society of Emergency Services Instructors. All opinions expressed are those of the author, who would be grateful for any feedback and discussion.