

## SUZANNE BERNIER, CEM, CBCP, MBCI

Suzanne is an award-winning and internationally-recognized emergency management and business continuity consultant, instructor and speaker, who has helped governments, communities and companies plan for and respond to disasters for nearly twenty years. Her company, SB Crisis Consulting, was recently awarded the prestigious global 2015 *Innovation & Excellence Award – Excellence in Emergency Management (Canada)*, as well as the 2014 *International Business Excellence Award – Crisis Communications Consultant of the Year (Canada)*. She is also the recipient of the 2014 *Alumni Achievement Award* from her alma mater, Cambrian College.



Throughout her career, Suzanne has been personally involved in crises such as the 1998 “Ice Storm of the Century” in Eastern Canada, 9/11, the 2003 Northeast Blackout, Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Sandy, as well as numerous floods, fires, severe storms and reputational crises. One of Suzanne’s key career achievements was being commissioned by the **United Nations Headquarters** in 2008 to help them review, test and evaluate the UN’s pandemic plans and procedures.

Prior to her career in business continuity and emergency management, Suzanne was a news reporter and anchor, as well as government press secretary/communications advisor and speechwriter.

In 1997, Suzanne became Ontario’s **first female** uniformed Emergency Management Field Officer for Emergency Management Ontario (EMO), where she helped coordinate the Ontario government’s response to floods, forest fires and severe storms. In recognition of her response work during the 1998 “Ice Storm of the Century” in Canada, she received the *Amethyst Award for Outstanding Achievement* on behalf of the Government of Ontario.

Suzanne is a Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) through the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), as well as a Certified Business Continuity Professional (CBCP) through Disaster Recovery Institute International (DRII) and a certified Member of the Business Continuity Institute (MBCI).

A self-professed “voluntourist”, Suzanne has been a volunteer with "Continuity Cares" since 2007, returning to New Orleans regularly to help rebuild critical infrastructure, schools and homes destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. She also participated in Hurricane Sandy relief efforts both on Staten Island and in the Rockaways.

Suzanne’s first book, *Disaster Heroes*, was released in 2015 and tells the stories of ordinary men, women and children who have done extraordinary things to help respond, recover and rebuild following some of the world’s most significant disasters.