

Dwight Henninger



Dwight Henninger has been the Chief of Police in Vail, Colorado since early 2002 when he took over responsibility for the 64 person organization that polices Vail and provides communications services for Eagle County. Prior to coming to Vail he was the Director of the Colorado Regional Community Policing Institute and the Colorado Police Corps in Golden.

Dwight started his law enforcement career in Irvine, California where he worked as a patrol and traffic officer. He worked in planning and research, became a sergeant in patrol and investigation, spent 10 years on the Special Operations Unit (SWAT Team) and supervised the Crisis Negotiations Team. He was then selected to be a command officer in the Laguna Beach, California, Police Department.

He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy session #196, PERF's Senior Management Institute for Police and the California POST Command College. Dwight has master's degrees from University of California-Irvine and San Diego State University. He has received the Medal of Courage and the Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police Pioneer in Policing and Ralph Smith Innovation awards.

Dwight is a team coordinator and incident commander on the Northwest Colorado Type 3 Incident Management Team and is the Chair of the Colorado Mobilization Working Group. He served in 2007/2008 as President of the Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police and a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police Executive Committee, Homeland Security Committee and Environmental Crimes Committee. He is currently appointed to the FEMA Local, State, Tribal, and Federal Preparedness Taskforce by DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano. He has an unusual combination of expertise in law enforcement and emergency management (usually associated with the fire service) and has a national platform in his work with FEMA for sharing the perspectives he has developed from working in these two disciplines. Integrating these disciplines is becoming increasingly important as resources continue to diminish in government and the importance of emergency management grows.