Paradigm Shifting: Getting outside our

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Paradigm A set of:

- Standardized assumptions
- Beliefs
- Perceptions shared by a "community" of people.



Standardized assumptions Beliefs

Perceptions

have changed or are in transition.

Paradigms set boundaries on our thinking.

And tell us how to behave within those boundaries.

When gripped by a paradigm... it can very difficult to see the world in any other way.

A paradigm shift:

New game. New rules. New boundaries.

An early sign new paradigms is on the horizon:

Some "crazy" people starts saying strange things and messing with the rules.

And when the rules change... the world changes.

Paradigm shifts we've seen in our lifetime.

40 years ago... Our "eye" phone was a toy pulled by a string.



52% of children under the age of 8...

have used a smartphone.

15 years ago...

Our 140-character opinions were written on bathroom walls.

Today... There are over 500 million tweets sent daily.

35 years ago...

We drank tap water:

Often... out of a garden hose.

Today...

Americans spend

\$16 BILLION a year on bottled water.

And tap water was... and still is...

FREE!

30 years ago...

This was the only apple we knew.



Over 250 million Apple computers have been sold.

In 2014 they released...

Need for Speed.

30 years ago...

Our need for speed was very different!

Think: AOL dial-up

| Warner Brothers | Disney Channel |
|--|----------------|
| Universal Studios | Nickelodeon |
| 21st Century Fox | BET |
| Paramount Pictures | Comedy Central |
| Showtime | Golf Channel |
| National Geographic Wild | HBO. |
| Turner Entertainment Network | |
| All these companies have 3 things in common? | |

One:

They are all entertainment companies.

Two:

Entertainment companies are driven by ratings & viewership.

The parent companies of these entertainment companies

Follow the money.







MSNBC OCBS

HLN



A once-held paradigm:

News channels reported the news without an agenda.

A new paradigm?

Many main-stream media outlets have become ratings-driven and political.

Who do we trust the least? Journalist/News Reporter Member of Congress Senator Lawyer **Insurance Salesperson Car Salesperson**

20 years ago...

Yearbooks...

were the book of faces we knew.

Today... Facebook

Reports having more than 3 billion users.

That's larger than the populations of China, India, and the U.S. combined.

36% of Americans report...

They regularly get their news from Facebook.

There are more than two trillion text message sent annually.

The average person sends 13 text messages per day. There are more than 300 million Zoom meetings daily.

Amazon

Profits shot up \$113 billion in 2020.

Or should I say...

Skyrocketed!

While 37% of all small businesses closed up.

Paradigm shifters:

The crazy people who challenge our rules and offer new ones.

Martin Cooper

Those most likely to shift paradigm are...

Those who don't care about the rules of the game.

Paradigm shifters ask...

DUMB questions.

Paradigm shifters ask...

HARD questions.

And because they are often viewed as outsiders who just "don't understand."

Those faithful to existing paradigms...

resist and reject paradigm shifters.

"That's impossible!"

"We don't do things that way around here!"

"We tried that before and it didn't work."

"If it were only that easy."

"We have rules that don't allow us to do that."

"How dare you to suggest we are doing things wrong?"

The warning signs that a paradigm shift is may be on the horizon:

Turbulence

Dissatisfaction with how things are.

Existing paradigms begin to be less effective.

The "community" senses the situation...

And begins to lose trust in the old rules and leaders who stick to them. Turbulence increases as conflict with the existing paradigm becomes more apparent.

Paradigm shifters steps up and offer a new solutions.

Many paradigm shifting ideas have been around a while... just waiting for the time to be right. The "community" becomes extremely upset and demands clear solutions.

A new paradigm is suggested that solves a small set of significant problems the old paradigm could not.

Some in the "community" accept the new paradigm as a leap of faith. As more adopt the new paradigm... Momentum builds. Turbulence declines as the new paradigm starts solving problems and the

"community" has a new way of doing business.

Situational Awareness Being vigilant Perception Sense making Understanding Anticipating Prediction the future.

Playing the role of the crazy guy today who will make crazy predictions about the future is... me!

Potential paradigm shifts on the fire service horizon:

Financial strain from lost tax revenue due to business closings will impact city budgets.

There will be calls for greater accountability and justification for how tax dollars are spent.

Federal funding is going to be tied to some form of federal operational oversight.

The future? Demands for greater efficiencies and reduced costs.

Data & science will drive decisions.

Fire department efficiency studies will abound, with an emphasis on work-hour utilization.

More consolidation of services & regional delivery systems.

More public safety departments, combining: Police, fire & EMS.

Responders will become dual-rolled city employees to increase utilization.

The future? Resources shift toward preventing loss.

Changes in structural firefighting.

The future? Out of hospital care by EMS:

In-home preventive care Post-discharge follow-up care Post surgical follow-up care Mobile care units In-home geriatric care Virtual EMS consults

Fire-based EMS will increase as private EMS employers struggle to attract and retain staffing.

24-hour staffing models will be deemed inefficient and replaced.

Private sector pay and benefits will make it harder to attract and retain first responders.

More turnover.

The "Great Resignation"

The fire service paramilitary ethos will die.

And a kinder, gentler ethos will emerge.

Uniforms will become more casual, maybe even optional.

Long-standing fire service traditions will be challenged.

Many will fall.

Responders will feel more empowered to refuse legitimate orders they don't agree with.

Complaints to HR from responders who feel abused, harassed and/or emotionally hurt will increase dramatically.

While supervisors feel helpless to hold those workers accountable.

Public safety agencies will select more leaders with private sector backgrounds.

Private sector competition for workers will drive up public sector pay and benefits.

The future? **Responders will...** Sleep at home (while on-duty).

We will see an Increase in the number of people working from home and available to volunteer.

Recruitment will remain a challenge.

Greater scheduling flexibility and job-share programs.

Greater priority on family

with high expectations for accommodations.

Agencies will provide onsite child care as an employee benefit.

And responders will be allowed to freely visit and play with their kids while on-duty.

Greater emphasis on health and wellness.

The labor-management relationship gap will widen.

Fire department fleets will be hybrid or all-electric.

Virtual reality training will gain popularity.

New generation workers will require entertainment as much as education.

Instructors will be challenged to maintain engagement and participation.

There will be a rise in niche conferences and a decline in mega conferences.

Print magazines will cease to exist.

Police response times to unstable scenes will be less reliable.

Citizen journalists (with camera phones) will increase immensely.

Quality elected leadership will be harder to find.

The decisions of elected officials will be influenced more by a small number of vocal residents.

At this conference...

You may be introduced to many new ideas whose time has come.

Embrace the future! Be flexible Be resilient Be open-minded Be adaptable Be brave Be a change pioneer! Dr. Richard B. Gasaway Gasaway Leadership Solutions St. Paul, Minnesota USA

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