



April 14, 2020

State Private Sector Coordinators - Leading the Way

In 2019, NEMA established the Private Sector Lead Coordination Group to put states in a position to build elements of their programs on a regional level since so many businesses are located in multiple states.



The relationships with other state private sector leads is a critical component to building resilient programs that aren't siloed state by state. The establishment of this group demonstrates the tremendous value that NEMA and emergency management agencies place on public-private partnerships and the critical role they play in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery, including COVID-19.

The Private Sector Lead Coordination Group celebrated its one-year anniversary at the beginning of March and has been a key component in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. NEMA hosts a weekly call to support information sharing between state leads and provide the latest news from the federal government and the FEMA National Business Emergency Operations Center (NBEOC).

Throughout the pandemic response, private sector leads have been working closely with their local business communities to establish and support essential services. They are working with major corporations to help maintain the supply chain and with entire communities of business and industry to create innovative solutions to the problems and challenges during this time of crisis. This group is working together as its own critical lifeline on a daily basis to support each other and their states and we couldn't be prouder of them. Here are just a few examples of innovation and collaboration in response to the overwhelming needs created by this pandemic and here are just a few.

Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Alaska are coordinating on a grocer call to better understand and solve issues related to the supply chain in those states. Oregon has also set up an Oregon specific grocer call that created a closer connection with these partners to allow more open and candid discussions. Oregon is also hosting a

county/tribal emergency management call to flesh out supply chain issues and then connect them with the broader grocer group.

Ohio has also experienced great collaboration and cooperation with their Ohio Public Private Partnership (OP3). The state has been in direct contact with representatives from retail partners such as Walmart, Meijer and Kroger to discuss supply-chain issues, questions related to various waivers, and needs for state-level support throughout the COVID-19 response.

In addition, Ohio has been working directly with pharmaceutical outlets CVS, Giant Eagle, Kroger, Meijer, Walgreens, and Walmart. Each of these companies have worked with the state and gone above and beyond normal practices in offering delivery options so that customers can receive critically needed medications particularly as surge locations are activated across the state. OP3 has also worked directly with a representative from Grainger that helped locate PPE and other much needed sanitation products.

"The state private sector leads have been instrumental in working through some of the toughest supply chain hurdles to get resources and supplies to communities hard hit by this pandemic", says Shandi Treloar, NEMA Private Sector Committee Chair and lead for the Private Sector Lead Coordination Group.

If a state emergency management agency doesn't have an established state program, or someone specifically dedicated to engaging the private sector and need support please let NEMA know. If you have recently designated someone to this role please send [their contact information](#) and we will add them to the list and calls.

Collaboration, communication, cooperation are the key to getting through this together.

Take care and stay well!!

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