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## COLLABORATION STRENGTHENS EVEN THE BEST TEAMS

Knowledge, experience, talent and skill doesn't only apply to State Emergency Management Directors. They also have on staff some of the best professionals in the nation. NEMA recognizes and embraces this unique talent pool by creating opportunities for State EM Staff to engage with the Association.

The following groups have been created to allow State EM Staff to provide technical assistance to NEMA's standing policy committees, share information and best practices, and create support networks among professionals performing similar jobs.

- Deputy Directors
- Legal Counsels
- Private Sector Coordination Leads
- Public Assistance/Individual Assistance Officers (PA/IA)
- Public Information Officers (PIOs)
- State Hazard Mitigation Officers (SHMOs)

The Private Sector Coordination Leads is the latest group to be formed by NEMA, and they'll meet for the first time in conjunction with the 2019 Annual Forum. These are the individuals working for or with State Emergency Management Agencies to develop and implement public-private partnership programs.

The SHMO Subcommittee recently provided extremely valuable input to NEMA's issue paper on realigning federal mitigation programs as a result of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act. The paper has been provided to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), key congressional committee staff, the National Security Council and others. The SHMOs also contributed a chapter focused on mitigation for the newly updated NEMA State Director Handbook, as did the PA/IA and PIO Subcommittees.

The NEMA Legal Counsel Committee has been a tremendous asset for many years and provides technical assistance to each of NEMA's committees and the states. Members share information regularly on legal issues they're facing as well as real world examples of how best to

resolve those issues. The Committee also assists with Association governance documents such as Bylaws and Policies & Procedures.

There is no fee for State EM Staff to participate – it's a benefit of State Membership in NEMA. We'd like to thank each of these groups for their many contributions to the Association and the emergency management profession.

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