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a collaborative environment to drive policy, innovate and advance emergency management

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2022 Biennial Report Reflects Our Evolving Disaster Landscape

Have you ever stumbled across a resource that was so versatile and useful that you wondered how it took you this long to find it? Well, that's the type of material **NEMA provides in its Biennial Report!** The Association just released its **2022 Biennial Report** – a one-of-a-kind product providing the most comprehensive and industry specific data across the country – and we could not be more excited for it!

NEMA began polling its membership and compiling this data into a report in 1996 in



response to assertions by Congress that states were too reliant on federal funding and were not adequately investing their own resources in disaster preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery. NEMA set out to gather data from state emergency management agencies to prove otherwise and has been doing so for the last 26 years.

This resource is invaluable to states as material that state directors can bring to their legislatures and governors when developing budgets – providing statistics to reinforce the need for adequate funding and just providing a general understanding of what the emergency management structures looks like across the country. **Sima Merick, Director of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, emphasized its effectiveness as a tool, stating “the resources provided to states such as information used to generate support for emergency management programs with governors, legislators, and members of Congress is of great value. Frankly, it makes our discussion with government leaders more streamlined and efficient”.**

While each iteration of the Biennial Report is altered to reflect our evolving disaster landscape, not much could have prepared any of us for the wrench that the COVID-19 pandemic would through into the emergency management sphere. **Our 2020, and now 2022, editions have shown just how resilient and flexible state and local emergency management professionals have been.** These emergency managers and state directors were put into leadership positions supporting public health in their jurisdictional responses to the pandemic – on top of responding to the increasing frequency and severity of your regularly scheduled disasters! This report highlights just how incredible of a job these professionals have done serving their communities and protecting the health of the country in the most trying of times.

Along with rising to the occasion, **our Nation's emergency management directors have had to get creative** in regard to solutions that best meet the needs of their respective populations – we know there is not one solution to every situation. This **report highlights those successes** and allows for the community to share their innovative developments in an effort to increase collaboration and knowledge. One example of this comes out of Oregon, where the state has been grappling with some of the most devastating wildfires the state has ever seen. In order to respond to the needs of their people, the **Oregon Department of Emergency Management was awarded \$422 million in CDBG-DR funding for their ReOregon plan**, which provides funding for new programs to help individuals, households, and communities continue to recover from these unprecedented disasters.

NEMA's policy statements have influenced national policies and programs which in turn influences state's policies and programs. **NEMA's Biennial Report provides the backbone support to all members** when moving forward with important policy discussions. States are being faced with ever changing severe weather, and now must also be able to respond to a range of other threats like active shooter incidents, cyber-attacks, and public health emergencies. These non-traditional events are testing and pushing the boundaries of current approaches to disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. Our report contextualizes this into a resource that can be leveraged at all levels of government to work towards the most efficient and effective prevention, response, and recovery system possible.

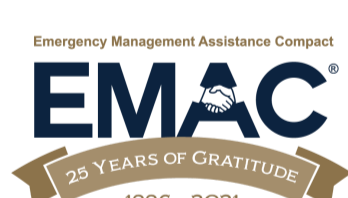
We would be remiss not to mention how vital the support from our sponsors are to the success of this invaluable report. **A massive thank you to Emergency Disaster Services (EDS), Dataminr, Amentum, Guidehouse, IEM, and Universal Storage Containers (USC)!** If you have not already, check out this amazing report on the **NEMA website** – you will not regret it!

We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now.

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

If you would like more information or have a state practice you'd like to highlight as part of this ongoing series, please contact [Jamie Logan](mailto:jlogan@nemaweb.org)

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