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Energy Resilience and the Role of Emergency Management



The Colonial Pipeline ransomware attack, wildfires, and other extreme weather events have shown that **state emergency management agencies (EMAs) have a role to play in responding to energy-related crises**. Energy reliability in the U.S. directly impacts public safety, the economy, and national security. NEMA has developed a primer **[Best Practices for State Emergency Management Agencies and Energy Offices for Integrated All-Hazards Planning](#)** that provides state EMAs with resources and best practices on energy resilience and the role of emergency management.

The primer outlines emergency **authorities for an energy event, threats, risk assessment and planning opportunities, and response and recovery resources**. It also includes examples of **state model practices** such as **California's** emergency fuels task force; **South Carolina's** real-time power outage layer in their situational awareness platform; and **Nevada's** use of social media to inform the public about response actions by utilities to restore power following a wildfire. **Kansas, Nevada, and New Jersey** have used federal grant funds to improve the resiliency of critical infrastructure throughout their states. The **Utah** state legislature created a public/private grid resilience committee tasked with creating greater resilience for the power grid with respect to weather events, wildfires, terrorism, and other potentially damaging events.

It's vital that state EMAs and energy offices communicate and plan together for energy emergencies, determine threats to energy infrastructure and work with energy owners and operators to mitigate risks, conduct joint exercises, and understand resources available to assist with energy crisis response.

The NEMA primer is funded through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response. It's one of several projects that NEMA has underway with CESER to help strengthen the relationship between state EMAs and their energy office counterparts.

Energy is essential for development, and sustainable energy is essential for sustainable development.

- Tim Wirth

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