



**2025 NEMA Mid-Year Emergency Management Policy and Leadership Forum
March 21 – 25, 2025
Capital Hilton Hotel - Washington, DC**

Agenda

March 21 pre-meetings are closed and not included in registration fee.

8:30 – 11:30 am	State Director Meeting with U.S. Northern Command (closed, off-site)	
8:30 am - 4 pm	EMAC Advisory Group/Executive Task Force (closed)	South American B
1:30 – 3:30 am	Deputy Directors Group (closed)	South American A
3 – 4:30 pm	State Hazard Mitigation Officers (closed)	Pan American

Friday, March 21

9 am – 4 pm	Registration	Continental
10 – 11:30 am	Legal Counsel Committee	Senate
11:30 am - 1:30 pm	Buffet Luncheon	Congressional
1-3 pm	NEMA Board of Directors Meeting	Senate
3:30- 5:30 pm	State Director Executive Session (closed)	Federal
4:30 – 8:30 pm	Exhibitor Set-up	Capital Terrace/Upper Lobby

Saturday, March 22

7:15-8:30 am	Continental Breakfast	Senate & Congressional
7:30 am – 3:30 pm	Registration & Exhibits	Continental, Capital Terrace, Upper Lobby
8:30-11:30 am	General Session	Presidential Ballroom
8:30 – 8:45 am	Welcome, Opening Remarks, Roll Call of the States	

8:45 – 10:30 am **Resilience in the Storm: Recovery Lessons from 2024 Hurricanes**
The impacts of Hurricanes Helene and Milton in 2024 pushed emergency management systems to their limits, revealing critical insights into disaster recovery strategies. This session offers insights into challenges and opportunities in post-storm recovery in affected communities. Hear lessons learned and practical tools for improving resilience in recovery.

Moderator: Anne Bink, Director of Mitigation and Resilience, IEM

Panelists:

- William Kehler, Emergency Services Director, McDowell Co., North Carolina
- Don Campbell, Chief of Staff, North Carolina Emergency Management Division
- Kevin Guthrie, Director, Florida Division of Emergency Management
- Patrick Sheehan, Director, Tennessee Emergency Management Agency

- Kim Stenson, Director, South Carolina Emergency Management Division
- John Scrivani, State Coordinator, Virginia Division of Emergency Management

10:30 – 10:45 am	Networking Break	Capital Terrace/Upper Lobby
10:45 – 11:15 am	Federal Emergency Management Agency Cameron Hamilton, Senior Official Performing the Duties of FEMA Administrator	Presidential Ballroom
11:30 am – 1 pm	Luncheon (seated)	Senate & Congressional
1:30 -2:30 pm	EMAC Committee	Presidential Ballroom
2:30 – 3 pm	Sponsors and Snacks	Capital Terrace/Upper Lobby
3 – 4:30 pm	Whole Community Committee	Presidential Ballroom

Sunday, March 23

7:30-8:30 am	Continental Breakfast	Senate & Congressional
7:30 am – 3:30 pm	Registration & Exhibits	Continental, Capital Terrace, Upper Lobby
8:30 – 9:45 am	Disaster Response at a Crossroads: Examining FEMA, State and Local Roles, and the Future of Emergency Management	Presidential Ballroom

This panel will explore the evolving role of FEMA, state governments, and local agencies in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. Experts will discuss the balance of federal, state, and local responsibilities, and examine whether the current emergency management system meets the needs of the public. If not, what would we change if we could redesign it from scratch? Panelists will discuss innovations and reforms necessary to strengthen the nation’s emergency management framework for the future.

Moderator: Mark Ghilarducci, President & CEO, Emergent Global Solutions

Panelists:

- Mayor Joe Grandy, Washington, Co., Jonesborough, Tennessee
- Lynn Budd, Director, Wyoming Office of Homeland Security
- Sima Merick, Executive Director, Ohio Emergency Management Agency
- Mike Byrne, Specialist Executive, Deloitte

9:45 – 10 am	Networking Break	Capital Terrace/Upper Lobby
10 – 11:30 am	Resilience Committee	Presidential Ballroom
11:30 am – 1 pm	Buffet Luncheon	Senate & Congressional
1 – 1:30 pm	NASA’s Disaster Response Coordination System Joshua Barnes, Manager, Disaster Response Coordination System, NASA	Presidential Ballroom
1:35 – 2:35 pm	Legislative Committee	Presidential Ballroom

2:35 – 3:05 pm	Sponsors and Snacks	Capital Terrace/Upper Lobby
3:15 – 4:15 pm	Private Sector Committee	Presidential Ballroom
4:30-5 pm	State Director Action Meeting (closed)	Pan American
6 pm	Past Presidents Committee (closed)	
7 pm	Sponsor/Exhibitor tear-down	Capital Terrace/Upper Lobby

Monday, March 24

7:30-8:30 am	Continental Breakfast	Senate & Congressional
7:30 am – 12 pm	Registration	Continental
8:15 – 9 am	Game Planning for Safety: Preparing Emergency Management for World Cup 2026	Presidential Ballroom

The FIFA World 2026™ is set to be one of the largest and most complex global sporting events in history, spanning 16 cities across North America, including 11 in the United States, with millions of attendees and countless fan events. This panel will explore the critical role of emergency management in ensuring the safety and success of this massive event. From crowd control and public safety to interagency collaboration and contingency planning, experts will discuss the unique challenges of hosting a high-profile, multi-venue international event. Attendees will also gain insights into anticipated resource needs and coordination through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). Don't miss this chance to learn how emergency management professionals at all levels are gearing up for the world's most popular sporting event.

Moderator: Dawn Brantley, Director, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

Panelists:

- GB Jones, Chief Safety and Security Officer for *The FIFA World Cup 2026™*
- Sara Zalieckas, Special Events Planning Program Specialist, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
- Dominick Mireles, Director, Office of Emergency Management, City of Philadelphia

9:15 -10 am	Partners Panel: 2025 State and Local Priorities for the New Administration	Presidential Ballroom
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The cornerstone of NEMA's advocacy strategy is partnerships. As we usher in a new political and policy dynamic in the Nation's Capital, building and sustaining these partnerships with other stakeholder organizations will be paramount to achieving our own priorities. This panel will examine how other national associations are navigating the coming changes, setting priorities, and utilizing their relationship with NEMA to further homeland security and emergency management policies.

Moderator: Thad Huguley, Director of Government Affairs, International Association of Emergency Managers

Panelists:

- Renee Antoine, Legislative Director, National Governors Association
- Nicole Ezeh, Associate Legislative Director, Law and Public Safety, National Conference of State Legislatures
- Brett Mattson, Legislative Director, Justice & Public Safety, National Association of Counties
- Laura Waxman, Director of Public Safety, The U.S. Conference of Mayors (*invited*)

10 – 10:15 am	Break	Upper Lobby
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10:15 – 11:15 am	Homeland Security Committee	Presidential Ballroom
11:30 am – 1:15 pm	Buffet Lunch	Senate & Congressional
1:15 – 2:45 pm	Response and Recovery Committee	Presidential Ballroom
3 – 3:30 pm	Congressman Dale W. Strong (R-AL) Chair, House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Management and Technology	Presidential Ballroom
3:30 – 4 pm	NEMA Business Session	Presidential Ballroom
4:15 -5:30 pm	State Director Executive Session (closed)	Federal
<u>Tuesday, March 25</u>		
7-8:30 am	Continental Breakfast	Senate & Congressional
8 am	Bus departs hotel for Capitol Hill <i>For State Directors and Staff Only</i>	
8:30 am – 5 pm	State Director Capitol Hill Visits	
6-8 pm	State Director Executive Session (closed)	South American