



January 27, 2025

The Vital Importance of a Strong, Efficient, and Effective Emergency Management System

Lexington, KY - President Trump signed an [Executive Order](#) on January 24, 2025 establishing a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Review Council. On behalf of the state emergency management directors of the 50 states, territories, and District of Columbia, we agree there are systemic issues to address concerning federal disasters. The system is not perfect, and we must continue working toward reducing the complexity of federal disaster assistance programs, flexibility on management costs to build state and local capacity, developing a universal disaster survivor application, streamlining federal mitigation programs, developing resilience incentives, limiting severe repetitive loss, and ensuring robust mutual aid capabilities.

We also must recognize the herculean effort displayed by the states. In fiscal year 2023, 23,910 events required state or territorial assets but did not rise to the level of requiring federal assistance. In that same year, only 60 events received a major federal declaration.

"NEMA offers to serve as a resource to the administration and the FEMA review council to achieve outcomes that benefit all levels of emergency management, but especially the disaster survivor." Lynn Budd, NEMA President and Director of Wyoming Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

There is no shortage of challenges facing emergency management today, but some priorities have risen to the top for state emergency management agencies. The role of NEMA is to advocate for solutions to policy issues in ways that benefit the national emergency management system

NEMA's 2025 National Policy Priorities include:

- Addressing the Role of Emergency Management in Nation State Threats
- Building State and Local EM Capacity
- Ensuring Disaster Survivor Resources are Available When Needed
- Reducing the Complexity of Federal Disaster Assistance Programs
- Incorporating FEMA into the Presidential Cabinet

NEMA looks forward to working with the administration, Congress, and the FEMA review council to develop positive solutions, make federal disaster programs more efficient, and improve the safety and security of communities, states, and the Nation. We strongly support the personnel and mission of FEMA and believe that a strong local, state, and federal emergency management system is necessary to save lives and build resilience for the future.

For more information on NEMA, contact Karen Langdon, Marketing Director, at (859) 244-8143 or e-mail klangdon@csg.org.

NEMA is the association of professionals dedicated to enhancing public safety by improving the nation's ability to prepare for, respond to and recover from all emergencies, disasters, and threats to our security. NEMA is an affiliate organization of The Council of State Governments, headquartered in Lexington, Kentucky.

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