



**NEMA 2025 Annual Forum
October 9-12, 2025
Little America Hotel & Resort – Cheyenne, WY
Draft Agenda**

Pre-meetings not included in registration. Closed sessions.

8-11:30 am	New State Director Orientation (closed)	Cheyenne Room
8:30 am - 4 pm	EMAC Executive Task Force (closed)	Teton Room
8:30 am – 10:30 pm	Deputy Directors Meeting (closed)	Grand Ballroom A
1:30 - 4 pm	State Hazard Mitigation Officers (closed)	Sheridan Room

Thursday, October 9

8 am – 4 pm	Registration	Sinclair Room
10:30 -11:30 am	Legal Counsel Committee	Grand Ballroom D
11:30 am - 1:30 pm	Buffet Luncheon	Wyoming Ballroom
1 – 8:30 pm	Exhibitor Set-up	Grand Ballroom AD
1-3 pm	NEMA Board of Directors Meeting	Cheyenne Room
3:30- 5:30 pm	State Director Executive Session (closed)	Wyoming Ballroom

Friday, October 10

7:15-8:30 am	Continental Breakfast	Wyoming Ballroom
7:30 am – 3:30 pm	Registration & Exhibits	Sinclair Room, Grand AD
8:30 am - 12 pm	General Session	Wyoming Grand AD
8:30 – 8:40 am	Welcome and Call to Order	Wyoming Grand AD
8:40 – 9 am	Governor Mark Gordon, Wyoming	Wyoming Grand AD
9:05 – 9:35 am	Lt. General Thomas Carden, Deputy Commander, U.S. Northern Command (invited)	Wyoming Grand AD
9:35 – 10:05 am	David Richardson, SOPDA, Federal Emergency Management Agency (invited)	Wyoming Grand AD
10:05 – 10:30 am	Break	Wyoming Ballroom
10:30 – 11:30 am	Leading through Change: Practical Change Management for Emergency Management Leaders	Wyoming Grand AD

Emergency management is in a constant state of evolution—whether due to policy shifts, funding realignments, technological advancements, or the increasing complexity of disasters. For state and local emergency managers, navigating these changes requires

more than operational expertise; it demands intentional, strategic change management. This session will explore how to apply proven change management frameworks to the unique challenges of emergency management. We'll discuss how to lead teams through uncertainty, align stakeholders, and implement new systems or mandates without losing momentum. Real-world examples will highlight how change management can support transitions such as FEMA program redesigns, new compliance requirements, and evolving community expectations.

Moderator: Ashley Mattison, Partner, Guidehouse

Panelists:

- Kristin Porter, Partner, Guidehouse.
- Deanne Criswell, Former Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Glen Woodbury, Former Director, Center for Homeland Defense and Security

11:30 am – 1:30 pm **Buffet Luncheon** **Wyoming Grand AD**

1:30 – 2:30 pm **EMAC Committee** **Grand Ballroom**

2:30 – 3 pm **Sponsors & Snacks Networking Break** **Grand AD**

3 - 4 pm **Resilience Committee** **Grand Ballroom**

Saturday, October 11

7:30-8:30 am **Continental Breakfast** **Wyoming Ballroom**

7:30 am – 3:30 pm **Registration & Exhibits** **Sinclair Room, Grand AD**

8:30 – 9:30 am **Aligning Insurance and Mitigation: Building Resilience
In a Shifting Governmental and Risk Landscape** **Grand Ballroom**

As disasters grow more frequent and severe, the insurance market is under pressure—and so are emergency managers. This session brings together experts to explore how insurance and mitigation must evolve in tandem to meet the demands of a changing climate and governmental landscape. Panelists will examine the challenges of affordability, availability, and risk communication, and how emergency managers can play a pivotal role in bridging the gap between mitigation investments and insurance outcomes. The session will highlight short-term strategies like leveraging inspection data and aligning grant programs with insurance incentives, as well as long-term visions for a more resilient and insurable built environment. Attendees will leave with actionable insights and a clearer understanding of how to collaborate across sectors to reduce risk and protect communities.

Moderator: Jamelyn Austin Trucks, National Practice Director: Grants, Resiliency and Master Planning, AtkinsRealis

Panelists:

- Dan Kaniewski, Managing Director and US Public Sector Leader, Marsh McLennan
- Panelist: Derrick Hiebert, Practice Leader for Infrastructure Resilience, AECOM
- Panelist: Tim Temple, Commissioner of Insurance, Louisiana Department of Insurance

9:30 – 9:45 am **Break**

9:45 – 10:45 am **Homeland Security Committee** **Grand Ballroom**

11 – 11:45 am **Turning Loss into Strategy: Wyoming’s Collaborative
Approach to Wildfire Mitigation and Resilience** **Grand Ballroom**

In 2023, Wyoming faced a nearly 1-million-acre loss due to widespread wildfires—without the support of a state-funded Public Assistance or Individual Assistance program. In response, the state legislature allocated funding to the Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust and Homeland Security, enabling a multi-agency, cross-sector effort to address mitigation and improve response. Join moderator Lynn Budd as she shares Wyoming’s compelling story of recovery and innovation. Through partnerships with the Trust, state forestry, and private industry, the team implemented proactive strategies such as public safety power shutoffs, targeted public messaging, and community-driven planning. This session will explore how rural communities transformed a devastating wildfire season into a catalyst for collaboration, resilience, and creative mitigation planning—offering a model other states can adapt.

Moderator: Lynn Budd, Director/Homeland Security Advisor, Wyoming Office of Homeland Security

Panelists:

- Kelly Norris, Wyoming State Forester, Wyoming State Forestry Division
- Bob Budd, Executive Director, Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust
- Dustin McKen, Director of Asset Management Services, Black Hills Energy

11:30 am – 1:15 pm	NEMA Awards Luncheon Program begins at 12:30 pm	Wyoming Ballroom
1:30 – 2:30 pm	Private Sector Committee	Grand Ballroom
2:30 – 3 pm	Sponsors & Snacks Networking Break	Grand AD
3 – 4:15 pm	State Solutions: Building and Managing Disaster Assistance Programs	Grand Ballroom

As disasters increase in frequency and cost, many states are developing their own disaster assistance programs to fill gaps in federal aid. This session will examine how states design, fund, and administer these programs, including key policy considerations, common challenges, and best practices for implementation. Learn how states are stepping up to support recovery and build resilience through state-funded solutions.

Moderators: Nancy Dragani, Mid-West Region Account Executive, IEM
Chris Smith, Director of Individual Assistance and Direct Housing, IEM

Speakers:

- Bryan Fisher, Director, Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
- Chas Eby, Deputy Secretary, Maryland Department of Emergency Management
- Jeff Boyle, Executive Deputy Director, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency

4:30 -5 pm	State Director Action Meeting (closed)	Sheridan Room
5:30 – 7 pm	Sponsors & Spirits Reception	Grand AD
6 pm	Past Presidents Committee (closed)	TBD
7:30 pm	Exhibitor tear-down	Grand AD

Sunday, October 12

7:30-8:30 am	Continental Breakfast	Wyoming Ballroom
7:30 am – 12 pm	Registration	Sinclair Room

8:30 – 9 am The Future of Disaster Funding? Understanding Block Grants
Learn how disaster recovery funds flow from the federal government to states and nonprofits, and what it would mean to shift from project-based FEMA Public Assistance to block grant-style funding. Attendees will learn the basics of appropriations laws, federal funding agreements, how CDBG-DR and PA programs differ, what defines a block grant, pros and cons, and ideas for improving the PA program.

Speakers:

- Erin Greten, Of Counsel, Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz PC
- Amanda Spain, Shareholder, Baker Donelson PC

9:05 – 9:35 National Risk Study of States Grand Ballroom
This session will highlight the results of the National Risk Study of States and Territories, a survey on how technology, the workforce, funding, and the risk environment influence emergency management’s ability to achieve priorities and meet the mission. The Study was a collaborative effort between NEMA, Deloitte, and the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University.

Speakers:

- Michael Byrne, Specialist Executive, Deloitte
- Ragini Basu, Principal, Deloitte

9:35 - 9:45 am	Break	Grand Ballroom Reception
9:45 – 10:45 am	Response and Recovery Committee	Grand Ballroom
11 am – 12 pm	Whole Community Committee	Grand Ballroom
11:30 am – 1 pm	Buffet Lunch	Wyoming Ballroom
1 – 2 pm	Legislative Committee	Grand Ballroom
2:15 – 3 pm	Closing Business Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports by Officers • Voting on NEMA Committee Position Papers • Adoption of Updated NEMA Strategic Plan • Election of Officers • Remarks by Incoming President A.J. Gary 	Grand Ballroom
3:30 -5 pm	State Director Executive Session (closed)	Cheyenne Room