

NEMA 2026 Mid-Year Forum

Capital Hilton, Washington, D.C.

Legal Counsel Committee

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026 | 10:30 - 11:30 AM
CONGRESSIONAL

Agenda

- Review of Lawsuits Over FEMA Grant Programs
- Lawyers, Floods, and Money: Building Legislation for State-Level IA and PA Programs
- Grant Agreements: Legal Sufficiency & Audit Compliance

Committee Members

Chair: Will Polk, NC

Vice Chair: Morgan Middleton, MS

All interested state legal counsels may participate.

Private Sector Liaisons: Deborah Sulzer (Sulzer Group), Sam Van Kopp (Cordatis)

Board of Directors Liaison: Marc Pappas (RI)



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Legislative Committee

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026 | 1:30 - 2:30 PM
PRESIDENTIAL BALLROOM

Agenda

- Issue Sharing with Partner Stakeholders
- Roundtable with Invited Capitol Hill Staff
- Unfiltered! Situational Awareness from Former Hill Staff

Presenters & Guests

Josh Morton, IAEM | Invited Hill Staff | Daniel Mencher |
Logan De La Barre-Hayes

Committee Members

Chair: John Benson, IA

Vice Chair: Darin Hanson, ND

Jeff Smitherman (AL)

Kevin Guthrie (FL)

Allison Farole (MN)

AJ Gary (AR)

Ted Berger (IL)

Sima Merick (OH)

Trevor Denney (CO)

Russ Strickland (MD)

Erin McMahon (OR)

Bill Turner (CT)

Dawn Brantley (MA)

Patrick Sheehan (TN)

Clint Osborn (DC)

Kevin Sweeney (MI)

Lynn Budd (WY)

AJ Schall (DE)

Ali Rye (NM)

Private Sector Liaisons: Danielle Aymond (Baker Donelson), Kristin Cormier
Robinson (IEM)

Legal Committee Liaison: Anne Vitale (OH)

Past President Liaison: Wendy Smith-Reeve



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EMAC Committee

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026 | 3:00 - 4:00 PM
PRESIDENTIAL BALLROOM

Agenda

- Turning on the Tap: Preparing for Water System Emergencies and Scaling from WARN to EMAC
- Leveraging the Mutual Aid Support System and Mission Ready Packages for Expedited Response
- Discussion: Reimbursement Improvements
- Report from the EMAC Executive Task Force
- Transition of the EMAC Executive Task Force Leadership

Presenters & Guests

Kevin Morley, American Water Works Association | Cris McCombs, Hagerty Consulting

Committee Members

Chair: Kevin Sweeney, MI

Vice Chair: Jeff Smitherman, AL

Bryan Fisher, AK

Eric Gibson, KY

Sima Merick, OH

Gabe Levine, AZ

Jason Mahfouz, LA

Randy Patfield, PA

Trevor Denny, CO

Delila Bruno, MT

Angel Jimenez Colon, PR

Kevin Guthrie, FL

Patrick Callahan, NJ

Patrick Sheehan, TN

Angee Morgan, KS

Peter Cichetti, NY

Daryl Jaschen, VI

Private Sector Liaisons: Tony Robinson (NEMR), Brian Blake (CUSEC)

Legal Committee Liaison: Kristine Hoffman (NY)

Past President Liaison: Dave Maxwell



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Resilience Committee

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2026 | 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
PRESIDENTIAL BALLROOM

Agenda

- Highlighting the Role of VA's Chief Resilience Officer and Office of Commonwealth Resilience
- Building Resilience to Extreme Heat Events in North Carolina
- Connecticut's Severe Weather Mitigation and Resiliency Advisory Council: Implementing Recommendations

Presenters & Guests

John Scrivani, Virginia Department of Emergency Management |
Andrea Webster, North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency |
Bill Turner, Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and
Homeland Security|

Committee Members

Chair: Bill Turner, CT

Vice Chair: Tina Titze, SD

Tina Curry, CA

Allison Farole, MN

Marc Pappas, RI

Clement Bermudes, CNMI

Jim Remillard, MO

Kim Stenson, SC

James Barros, HI

Stephen McCraney, MS

Patrick Sheehan, TN

Ben Roeber, ID

Delila Bruno, MT

Kris Hamlet, UT

Russ Strickland, MD

Annie Vest, OK

Private Sector Liaisons: Lucrecia Vargas (CDM Smith), Jonathan Jenkins (AECOM)

Legal Committee Liaison: Kim Zigich (CT)

Past President Liaison: Jim Mullen



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Preparedness Committee

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2026 | 1:00 - 2:00 PM
PRESIDENTIAL BALLROOM

Agenda

- Presentation on Disaster Assistance High-Risk Series: State and Local Response Capabilities Report
- Montana's Preparedness Listening Tour
- Maintaining National Standards: A Discussion on EMAP

Presenters & Guests

Chris Currie, U.S. Government Accountability Office | Delila Bruno, Montana Disaster and Emergency Services | William Turner, Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

Committee Members

Chair: Sima Merick, OH

Vice Chair: Greg Engle, WI

James Barros, HI

Angee Morgan, KS

Josh Lamb, GA

Peter Cichetti, NY

Clint Osborn, D.C.

Russell Strickland, MD

Brett Compston, NV

Ali Rye, NM

David Sierotowicz, NJ

Kris Hamlet, UT

Gabriel Lavine, AZ

Private Sector Liaisons: James Joseph (Tidal Basin), Brian Baker (Hagerty)

Legal Committee Liaison: Caitlyn Rynn (AZ)

Past President Liaison: Dave Maxwell



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Private Sector Committee

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2026 | 3:30 - 4:30 PM
PRESIDENTIAL BALLROOM

Agenda

- Update on the Private Sector Committee White Paper - Building Trust, Enhancing Resilience: Recommendations for Public-Private Alignment
- Priorities and Objectives of the New NGO/Non-Profit Subcommittee
- Update on the State Private Sector Leads Working Group
- The Problem Solver Series: Developing State-led Disaster Assistance Programs.

Presenters & Guests

Karl Fippinger, International Code Council | Jon Hanian, Idaho Office of Emergency Management | Falon Alo, iParametrics | Joel Wish, Bright Harbor | Colt Hagmaier, AECOM | Joe Delaney, Visa

Committee Members

Chair: Erica Bornemann
AC Disaster Consulting

Vice Chair: Lee Siler
Walmart

All Corporate and Organizational members of NEMA are members of the Private Sector Committee.

Legal Committee Liaison: Morgan Middleton (MS)
Board of Directors Liaison: Marc Pappas (RI)



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Past Presidents Committee

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2026 | 6:00 PM
CLOSED MEETING

Agenda

- FEMA Reform
- NEMA Leadership Development
- NEMA Financial Outlook

Committee Members

Chair: Lynn Budd, WY

All NEMA Past Presidents are members of the committee.



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Homeland Security Committee

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026 | 9:45 - 10:45 AM
PRESIDENTIAL BALLROOM

Agenda

- Quick Reaction Forces of the National Guard
- Understanding National Defense Priorities of Governors
- *Presidio Endeavor* Wargame Pilot Program
- State Snapshots: Lessons Learned from D.C. and Rhode Island

Presenters & Guests

Betsy Johnson, EMAC National Guard Liaison | Renee Antoine, National Governors Association | Dawn Thomas, Center for Naval Analysis | Clint Osborn, Washington, D.C. | Marc Pappas, Rhode Island

Committee Members

Chair: AJ Schall, DE

Vice Chair: Robert Buxton, NH

Bryan Fisher (AK)

Kevin Sweeney (MI)

Erin McMahon (OR)

Gabe Levine (AZ)

Allison Farole (MN)

Marc Pappas (RI)

Clint Osborn (DC)

Delila Bruno (MT)

John Scrivani (VA)

Kevin Guthrie (FL)

Brett Compston (NV)

Robert Ezelle (WA)

Ted Berger (IL)

Patrick Callahan (NJ)

Matthew Blackwood (WV)

Jonathan Whitham (IN)

Ali Rye (NM)

Lynn Budd (WY)

Peter Rogers (ME)

Will Ray (NC)

Private Sector Liaisons: Bear Afkhami (MPACT), John Rabin (ICF)

Legal Committee Liaison: David Neill (CA)

Past President Liaison: Glen Woodbury



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Response and Recovery Committee

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026 | 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
PRESIDENTIAL BALLROOM

Agenda

- Brief from Chief Brian Fennessy, Wildfire Service Agency
- NEMA World Cup 2026 Task Force Brief
- Working Groups Updates: Response Planning, Response Operations, Response Logistics, Recovery Public Assistance, Recovery Individual Assistance

Presenters & Guests

Brian Fennessy, U.S. Department of Interior (invited) | Dawn Brantley, MA | Christe Coleman, Colorado | Lawrence Wise, Arizona
Sheldon Ross, Arizona | Angie Wynn, Minnesota | Jodi Lee, Arkansas

Committee Members

Chair: Kevin Guthrie, FL

Vice Chair: Erv Portis, NE

Bryan Fisher, AK
Tina Curry, CA
Trevor Denney, CO
Josh Lamb, GA
Angee Morgan, KS
Eric Gibson, KY

Dawn Brantley, MA
Stephen McCraney, MS
Ali Rye, NM
Peter Cichetti, NY
Erin McMahon, OR
Randy Padfield, PA

Marc Pappas, RI
Tina Titze, SD
Nim Kidd, TX
Eric Forand, VT

Private Sector Liaisons: Brittany Kelly (CohnReznick)

Legal Committee Liaison: Will Polk (NC)

Past President Liaison: Nancy Dragani

