

The Rhode Island Association of Emergency Managers
proudly presents

2023 RHODE ISLAND PREPAREDNESS CONFERENCE AGENDA

June 23, 2023

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To 2023 Rhode Island Preparedness Conference Attendees:

On behalf of the Rhode Island Association of Emergency Managers (RIAEM), we welcome you to the 2023 Rhode Island Preparedness Conference. I would like to first recognize and thank our sponsors for their generous support, without which this event would not be possible:

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2023 marks the 20th anniversary of RIAEM and gives us an opportunity to acknowledge and express our gratitude to all of the emergency managers, past and present, who have helped build the current emergency management community in Rhode Island. When a disaster strikes, our communities rely on the pre-incident planning, training, and exercising conducted and led by emergency managers. The success of the response and recovery depends on the critical work conducted by our colleagues, stakeholders, and partners. This year's Preparedness Conference unites emergency management professionals, partners, stakeholders, and community members to share knowledge and lessons learned and explore ideas for future growth and collaboration in the emergency management field.

RIAEM has a direct and measurable impact on Rhode Island communities' abilities to meet the challenges that come with ever-changing emergencies and disasters. RIAEM's members, sponsors, and partners helped produce this important conference to deliver relevant training to our members and communities and provide a professional forum to facilitate collaboration among government, non-profit, volunteer, and private sector organizations.

Thank you for joining us for this important learning opportunity, we hope you enjoy the conference!

Sincerely,

Clara Decerbo, President
Rhode Island Association of Emergency Managers

Congratulations!

RIAEM's 20th Year of Service

RIAEM is celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year and its members would like to thank everyone that has actively supported the association since its inception, and to especially recognize and thank its Founding President

Tom Senerchia

Emergency Management Director, Town of West Warwick, RI

Tom acknowledged at a recent Association meeting, as he has many times in the past, all the support he received from both active and volunteer responders during the tragic Station Night Club fire and stated:

"The establishment of the RIAEM was one good thing that came out of that tragedy that took so many lives and destroyed so many careers."



Established in 2003

Visit us and become a member at

www.riaem.com

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Please enjoy the conference.



2023 Rhode Island Preparedness Conference
Friday, June 23, 2023

AGENDA

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Registration / Breakfast / Networking

Join us in the auditorium for Welcoming Remarks and Keynote Speakers

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. **Clara Decerbo**, CEM President, Rhode Island Association of Emergency Managers
Dan McKee Governor, State of Rhode Island
Sabina Matos, Lieutenant Governor, State of Rhode Island
Roberto DaSilva, Mayor, City of East Providence, Rhode Island
Marc Pappas, Director, Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA)
Stephen J. Parenteau, Emergency Preparedness Manager, Rhode Island Energy

9:30 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. Keynote Speaker
Dr. Randal Collins, CEM
 President for the All-Hazards Incident Management Teams Association (AHIMTA)

10:20 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Morning Break

10:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m. Keynote Speaker
Ken Graham
 Director of NOAA’s National Weather Service and Assistant Administrator for the Weather Services at NOAA

Breakout Session 1

	Title	Presenter(s)	Location
11:20 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.	Public Information During a Disaster	Annemarie Beardsworth, RI DOH Melissa Carden, RIEMA Mike Healey, RI DEM	Room 351
	Building Pre-Disaster Relationships and Capacity to Leverage Post-Disaster Recovery Initiatives through the NDRF	Shalissa Coutoulakis, FEMA Lynn Levine, FEMA Elizabeth McNeil, FEMA	Room 352
	Understanding WebEOC	John Washburn Jr., RIEMA	Room 353
	FEMA’s Continuous Improvement Technical Assistance Program – A resource for emergency managers	Mike Corey, FEMA Devon Cormier, FEMA	Room 371
	Supporting Each Other: Leadership in the profession	Dan Nelson, CEM, CFM	Room 372
	Defining ADA’s Requirements on Effective Communications: Communicating with People who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing during emergencies and natural disasters	Michael Baer, Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing	Room 373
	NWS Weather Resources for the Emergency Management Community	Frank Nocera, NWS Bryce Williams, NWS	Room 380
	How to Assess Your Community’s Disaster Preparedness: A Guide for Senior Officials and Emergency Management Leaders	Raymond J. Perry, CEM, Town of Portsmouth, RI	Auditorium

12:10 p.m. – 1:20 p.m. Lunch and Exhibitor Presentations

Breakout Session 2

	Title	Presenter(s)	Location
1:20 p.m. – 2:10 p.m.	Implementing the Rhode Island Coastal Hazard, Analysis, Modeling, and Prediction System (RI-CHAMP) for Emergency Management and Response	Samuel W. Adams, University of Rhode Island	Room 351
	Building Government Strategies to Address Inequality During Crisis: Strategies to Build Community Capacity, Equity, and Resilience	Michelle Wilson, RI DOH, and Panelists	Room 352
	Was Our Planning, Training, and Exercising for Naught? Observations from Rhode Island’s COVID-19 response related to emergency mass vaccination and the use of MEDS-PODs	Brittan K. Bates-Manni, MS, MEP, RI DOH	Room 353
	Emergency Preparedness: How can we bridge the gap between Public and Private Sectors	Lori Adamo, CBCP Tracy L. Hall, MBCEP, CHPCP	Room 371

		Kenneth Otis, CBCP, MBCI	
	Participatory Action Research (PAR) Methodology in Disaster Research: Furthering the Professionalization of the Emergency Management Field 211 in the Disaster Cycle	Dr. Jennifer Carlson, Ph.D., CEM, LCSW Jay Burdick, <i>United Way</i> Joe Cournoyer, <i>United Way</i>	Room 372 Room 373
	Orneville Maine Train Derailment	John Selleck, PE, <i>State of Maine</i>	Room 380
	EOC Collaboration between Federal, State, and Local Partners	Marc Pappas, <i>RIEMA</i> and Panelists	Auditorium
2:10 p.m. – 2:40 p.m.	Afternoon Break		
	Breakout Session 3		
	Title	Presenter(s)	Location
	NOAA's National Ocean Service Emergency Response and Management Toolkit	William Whitmore, PhD., <i>NOAA</i>	Room 351
	Recovery – Past, Present, and Future	Armand Randolph, <i>RIEMA</i>	Room 352
2:40 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Funding a Climate Resilient Community	Rae-Anne Culp, <i>RIEMA</i> Melinda Hopkins, <i>RIEMA</i>	Room 371
	National Qualification System	David J. Schnell, Jr., <i>RIEMA</i>	Room 372
	Leadership Through Lived Experience: The Contribution of Individuals with Disabilities to The Field of Emergency Management	Valerie C. Haven	Room 373
	Incident Management: Beyond ICS	Tim Riecker, <i>CEDP</i>	Room 380
	Active Shooter & Mass Casualty Events: Cultural Competency & Incident Dynamics - 6 Case studies of psychological trauma support	Bradford Cole, <i>K9FR</i>	Auditorium
3:30 p.m.	Closing Remarks and Raffle		

Keynote Speaker Biographies



Dr. Randal Collins, CEM | President and CEO All-Hazards Incident Management Team Association
 Dr. Randal “Randy” Collins, CEM, serves as the President for the *All-Hazards Incident Management Teams Association*, an organization dedicated to inspiring excellence in incident management, and is co-founder of *FRAEM – the Foundation for the Research and Advancement of Emergency Management*. He has served in emergency management positions at the state, county, and municipal levels, and within nonprofit and private sectors. He was the Emergency Manager for El Segundo, CA, the National Director of the American Humane Animal Rescue program, and an emergency manager with Southern California Edison. Dr. Collins will facilitate a journey through the roles and responsibilities of emergency management directors as change agents, and on adapting your communities and the discipline of emergency management for the challenges ahead. Visit Dr. Collins on LinkedIn @ Randal-Collins.



Ken Graham | Director, NOAA's National Weather Service and the Assistant Administrator for Weather Services at NOAA
 As NWS Director, Mr. Graham is responsible for the overall leadership of the NWS and ensuring the day-to-day civilian weather operations for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters, and ocean areas. His strategic areas of focus include transforming the way Americans receive, understand, and act upon NWS information; ensuring NWS decision support services are equitably delivered across all communities, and advancing partnerships across the weather enterprise to reduce impacts of extreme weather, water, and climate events. He has served as the director of the National Hurricane Center, leading the nation through numerous hurricanes, including 30 named storms during the record-breaking 2020 hurricane season. His tireless energy to build effective partnerships at all levels of government and his close work with emergency managers underpin the nation’s preparedness ahead of hazardous weather. He is the first NWS director with a vast amount of operational field experience.

“Happy 20th
Anniversary to the Rhode Island
Association of
Emergency Managers!
Thank you for your valued
partnership over the years.”

— *Director Marc R. Pappas*



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Breakout Session 1

Public Information during a Disaster (Room 351)

Annemarie Beardsworth, Melissa Carden, Mike Healey

In emergency management communication with the public and the media is crucial in the effort to keep citizens safe and prepared. Join State of Rhode Island PIO's as they discuss best practices for spokespersons during disasters.

Meet the Presenters:

Annemarie Beardsworth has nearly three decades of healthcare communications experience, at RIDOH and in the hospital setting. She has worked through two public health pandemics and has been the State spokesperson for Hurricane Sandy and the Blizzard of 2013.

Melissa Carden brings over 20 years corporate and crisis communications experience to her role as Public Information Officer at RIEMA.

Mike Healey has nearly 20 years of experience communicating crises across three RI state agencies: the Attorney General's Office, the Department of Labor and Training, and the Department of Environmental Management.

Building Pre-Disaster Relationships and Capacity to Leverage Post-Disaster Recovery Initiatives through the NDRF (Room 352)

Shalissa Coutoulakis, Lynn Levine, and Elizabeth McNeil

Does your local or state emergency management agency have relationships with key partners? Do you know what partners to engage with in steady state preparation for a disaster recovery?

Representatives from FEMA Region 1 Community Assistance Recovery Support Function (CA RSF) will present on the National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF, 2016) principles that support a whole community effort to achieve locally driven and statewide recovery goals. When activated during a disaster, the CA RSF provides support that enables the state and locally affected communities to achieve their recovery goals by leveraging Federal, State, Non-Governmental, and Faith-Based community organizational partnerships, expertise, and resources.

FEMA R1 CA RSF supports the state's Recovery continuum by emphasizing the importance of pre-disaster recovery planning and discussing the capabilities and capacity that exist post-impact by utilizing these relationships. The panel will provide attendees an overview of how the FEMA R1 CA RSF works through the State (upon activation/request) post-disaster by engaging the whole community, while providing an opportunity to integrate resilience, equity, and sustainability into short and long-term recovery efforts.

Meet the Presenters:

Shalissa Coutoulakis and Lynn Levine are the Community Assistance (CA) Coordinators for FEMA Region 1, led by Elizabeth McNeil, working to support and strengthen SLTT governments' ability to plan for recovery, engage the community in the recovery planning process, and build capacity for local plan implementation and recovery management.

Shalissa Coutoulakis has been at FEMA for just under two years and began her career at FEMA after working as the Individual Assistance Recovery Coordinator with the Rhode Island State Emergency Management Agency. She brings with her a background in social work (M.S.W), community organizing, policy advocacy, and she has great experience in working with disadvantaged populations, most directly with refugees and persons experiencing homelessness.

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Lynn Levine has a background in international relations, communications, and non-profit program management. Prior to her tenure with FEMA, she led the delivery of critical community and emergency services to the military, veteran and “new American” communities with the ARC of Massachusetts. Lynn provided advocacy, public affairs, and partnership development support to UNICEF field offices in Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Azerbaijan, and was also part of a non-profit team that moved eBay to ban elephant ivory from its website worldwide in 2008.

Elizabeth McNeil joined FEMA in 2008 in the Individual Assistance Branch and has worked in a variety of positions across Recovery and Response over the last 15 years. She brings with her a vast experience in responding to All Hazards events across the US and New England with a focus on strategic planning and coordination of federal agencies.

[Understanding WebEOC \(Room 353\)](#)

John Joseph Washburn, Jr.

Rhode Island WebEOC is a web-based application used by the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) and all the municipal and tribal emergency management agencies within the State, as well as multiple State, federal and external partners. WebEOC is the State’s emergency management crisis information tool to manage situational awareness and resources on a daily basis and during major incidents and disasters. Understanding its capabilities and use of the application is key to managing complex incidents in RI and facilitates response coordination within our regional and federal response system.

Meet the Presenter:

John Joseph Washburn, Jr. Mr. Washburn has a combined 24 years of service from 1986 to 2010, with the United States Marine Corps and held full and part time positions within the Rhode Island Army National Guard. During his service he has had four military occupation specialties (MOS) - Infantryman, Scout Reconnaissance, Chemical Operations Specialist, and Military Police. During this time, he completed several deployments overseas to various locations within the Mediterranean and Middle East. He is a combat veteran of Operation Just Cause-Panama, Operation Desert Storm/Shield-Kuwait, and Operation Iraqi Freedom-Iraq.

Mr. Washburn started with the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) in 2004 as a contractor, working within the Agency as the Regional Response and then as the Technical Services Supervisor. In 2014 he was named Administrator, Operations Manager. During his ten-year employment with RIEMA, Mr. Washburn was deployed under the emergency management assistance compact (EMAC) to Hurricanes Katrina and Gustav. He also worked in the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) as the Operations Section Chief for major disaster declarations DR(s) #1894-Floods, #4027-TS Irene, #4107-Winter Storm, and #4212-Winter Storm.

From 2015 through 2019, he served as the Administrator, Operations Manager with the following state agencies; Department of Child, Youth and Families, Department of Human Services, and the State Juvenile Detention Center, overseeing and enhancing programs within these agencies.

Mr. Washburn returned to RIEMA in late 2019 as Administrator, Operations Manager, overseeing and assisting with several key agency programs and projects.

[FEMA’s Continuous Improvement Technical Assistance Program – A resource for emergency managers \(Room 371\)](#)

Mike Corey and Devon Cormier

The Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Continuous Improvement Program (CIP) builds preparedness through consistent, agency-wide assessment, program consulting and support, and corrective action tracking. Additionally, CIP provides technical assistance to state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) partners; non-governmental

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organizations; private sector organizations; other federal agencies; and other organizations with emergency management functions through its Continuous Improvement Technical Assistance Program (CITAP). CITAP offers guidance, tools, templates, training, and customized engagements. CITAP's technical assistance package includes three primary areas: a community of practice, a training suite, and advisory services.

- A Community of Practice for partners to share continuous improvement best practices, questions, and case studies, as well as access continuous improvement training and other collaborative engagements for sharing information across jurisdictions.
- A Training Suite consisting of a variety of virtual, independent study, and in-person trainings for continuous improvement professionals.
- Scalable, customized Advisory Services consisting of virtual or in-person consultations with a solutions-oriented, capability-building focus to support programs working on continuous improvement initiatives or activities within emergency management.

The FEMA Region 1 Continuous Improvement team will introduce participants to these resources.

Meet the Presenters:

Mike Corey has worked in the public safety and emergency management professions since 2001. He has served as a public safety communications officer, emergency management police officer, non-profit emergency preparedness manager, and non-profit program director. Currently he serves as an Emergency Management Specialist – Continuous Improvement Advisor for FEMA Region 1 and is an adjunct professor of emergency management at the University of Mississippi. He has served as President and Board Chair of Connecticut VOAD and as a national member representative to National VOAD. From 2010 to 2019 he served on the governing board of the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council. Mr. Corey holds a bachelor's degree from Indiana University with a concentration in Political Science, a master's in criminal justice from the University of Mississippi, and a Master of Arts in Transformational Leadership and Spirituality from Hartford Seminary.

Devon Cormier joined FEMA in the fall of 2020, as part of their Mitigation Division. She quickly jumped into action, deploying to Region 1's COVID-19 Response force, and spent several months documenting trends as a Planning Specialist for the region's Situation Unit. She now works in the National Preparedness Division as a Continuous Improvement Advisor. Devon has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Salve Regina University, and a Master of Science in Homeland Security and Emergency Management from the Van Loan school at Endicott College, graduating with Magna Cum Laude honors. Prior to FEMA, she worked as a volunteer with the American Red Cross while working as a writer and editor.

Supporting Each Other: Leadership in the Profession (Room 372)

Dan Nelson, CEM, CFM

This presentation will discuss ways to improve health and wellness for the emergency manager. We all have continuous stressors, high demands on our time, political considerations, and other factors that lead to burnout and unhealthy behaviors. We will discuss ways to cope with these issues, and how to build your own network of support. Taking this next step will allow emergency managers to leverage the knowledge and strength of others and provide peer support and many other advantages. As events of the last few years have demonstrated, it's not possible for us to operate on an island – in order to be successful, we are going to turn to others and use our collective strengths, talents, and resources to face the next challenges headed our way.

Meet the Presenter:

Dan Nelson, CEM, CFM is an emergency management consultant based out of Soldotna, Alaska. He began his career as a 911 dispatcher and volunteer EMT before volunteering on a local IMT in the planning section in 2008. In 2012, he moved to emergency management full time, achieving a county level director position in 2018. In 2021 he retired from public service and started an emergency management consulting firm, focusing on planning, training, and exercise activities.

Defining ADA's Requirements on Effective Communications: Communicating with People who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing during emergencies and natural disasters (Room 373)

Michael Baer

The presentation focuses on service accessibility for one of the most overlooked populations - the Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing population. In event of disasters and emergencies, the Accessible Hazard Alert System (AHAS)[™] provides Emergency Managers with the capability to send accessible emergency information in American Sign Language (for D/DB/HH persons) and literacy challenged before, during and after a disaster. AHAS[™] sends accessible alerts to internet and video-capable devices such as computers, tablets, cell phones, and wireless Braille readers. By providing such access in the D/DB/HH's primary language (sign language; captioning), the RI EMAs will be saving many, many lives.

Meet the Presenter:

Michael Baer. A native second-generation Deaf Euro-American is the first Director of Emergency and Public Communication Access Program (2017). Mike works closely with RIEMA and local EMAs and RI Dept. of Health (COVID-19 pandemic) to ensure that the deaf, deaf-blind and hard-of-hearing population is fully accessible, by means of utilizing ASL and captioned English, and properly served during disasters and emergencies. Mike came to the State of RI with 25 plus years of experience in Human Resources, Marketing, and Telecommunications serving D/DB/HH markets. Mike also is a staunch advocate for equal and effective communication and information accesses for D/DB/HH within State governments, Deaf Education systems, and public accommodations. For leisure, Mike enjoys cycling, golfing, hiking, kayaking, photography, skiing and traveling. Mike is a proud Dad of four Deaf sons and resides with his lovely partner in Providence, RI.

NWS Weather Resources for the Emergency Management Community (Room 380)

Frank Nocera and Bryce Williams

The relationship between the National Weather Service (NWS) and the Emergency Management community has been and continues to be vital to both the safety and resiliency of a community. Over the past several years, the products and resources available from the Boston/Norton National Weather Service Office have evolved substantially. This session will be hosted by a National Weather Service meteorologist who will discuss a slate of new resources for EMs, as well as review and explain lesser-known legacy services. Some of the topics to be discussed include a new NWS webpage dedicated to Emergency Management, a new in-depth guide to all the tropical weather and winter weather products produced by the NWS, a discussion of Decision Support Services (DSS) and how to request on-site or remote support, how to request a SPOT forecast, and more. Join us for a discussion on how the National Weather Service can best serve the Emergency Management community.

Meet the Presenters:

Frank Nocera is a Lead Meteorologist at the National Weather Service's forecast office in Norton, Massachusetts. He is responsible for observing and forecasting the weather for much of Southern New England. He received his bachelor's degree in meteorology from the State University of NY at Albany (UAlbany). He previously worked as a

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meteorologist for the NWS in Brookhaven, NY. In his current position, Frank manages the office's Impact Decision Support Services (IDSS) to NWS partners, including city, state, and federal emergency managers.

Bryce Williams is a meteorologist at the National Weather Service's forecast office in Norton, Massachusetts. He is responsible for observing and forecasting the weather for much of Southern New England. He received his bachelor's degree in meteorology from Mississippi State University and his master's degree in Atmospheric Science from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. He previously worked as a meteorologist for the NWS in Spokane, Washington and in his current position focuses much of his spare time on education and outreach to the public and NWS partners.

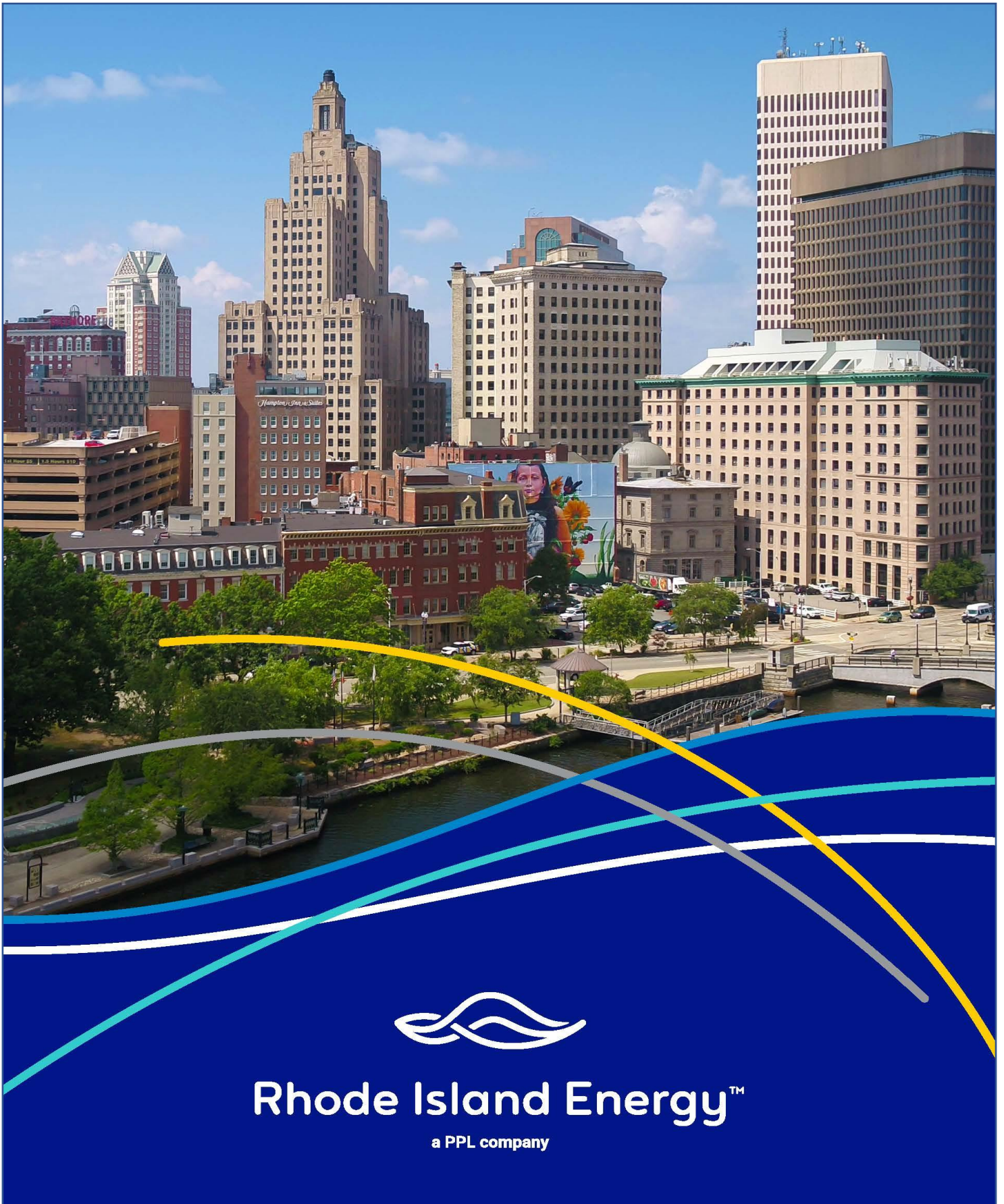
How to Assess Your Community's Disaster Preparedness: A Guide for Senior Officials and Emergency Management Leaders (Auditorium, 1st floor)

Raymond Perry, CEM

This presentation will provide local senior officials with the responsibility to ensure public safety, the ability to assess their community's preparedness to direct response and recovery operations when it comes to disasters. Many rely on the professional opinions of our career Fire and Police Chiefs, who often measure preparedness and improve readiness in a way not designed for disaster preparedness, making it difficult for municipalities to identify preparedness gaps, prioritize within budget how to fill those gaps.

Meet the Presenter:

Ray Perry is the Emergency Management Director for the Town of Portsmouth, RI and teaches Response Operations for Emergency Managers, and Emergency Preparedness for Facility Managers, at MA Maritime Academy Graduate School. For 36 years, he worked in the areas of maritime transportation safety and security, law enforcement, search and rescue, drug interdiction, migrant interdiction, marine firefighting and salvage, and oil and hazardous materials response. He performed prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery work in contingency specific as well as all hazards threat areas. He responded on scene as a first responder to many emergencies and disasters both nationally and internationally. He led U.S. efforts in numerous international emergency response forums under international instruments to include the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy, Antarctic Treaty, the International Oil Pollution, Preparedness Response and Cooperation Convention, and numerous bilateral agreements between the U.S. and Canada, Mexico, Caribbean Nations, and Panama. Following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Ray co-lead ESF 10 and FEMA Headquarters in Washington, D.C., and chaired the Preparedness Committee of the National Response Team (NRT), leading representatives from 16 federal agencies in an analysis of our national response system. Recommendations from that analysis significantly influenced how our nation would respond to disasters. After briefing the Homeland Security Council on the analysis, he was asked to participate on the Council and helped draft Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5) which established the use of one national emergency management system for all responses. He helped draft the first Federal Response Plan, combining four national response plans into one integrated system. He is an Incident Command System (ICS) expert, and as such briefed the Homeland Security Council on ICS, which led to ICS becoming our nation's standard system for on-scene response management. He held leadership roles in large responses going back to the Exxon Valdez oil spill and the 1989 Loma-Prieta Earthquake and was an Incident Commander for the DEEPWATER HORIZON Oil Spill, directing 47,000 responders, 6,500 vessels and 120 aircraft during the largest oil spill in U.S. history.



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Breakout Session 2

Implementing the Rhode Island Coastal Hazard, Analysis, Modeling, and Prediction System (RI-CHAMP) for Emergency Management and Response (Room 351)

Samuel W. Adams, AEM

The Rhode Island Coastal Hazards Analysis, Modeling, and Prediction system (RI-CHAMP), a University of Rhode Island Project funded by DHS Coastal Resilience Center of Excellence, is a high-resolution Hazard Consequence Modeling System designed to help state and local emergency managers (EMs) and critical infrastructure facility operators anticipate the consequences from significant coastal storm impacts (see also www.RICHAMP.org).

Emergency Managers need access to nuanced data that contextualizes major storm events' local-scale risks and impacts (e.g., hurricanes and nor'easters). The RI-CHAMP tool mixes quantitative and qualitative approaches to bring actionable data regarding specific local concerns, such as emergency vehicle access, loss of backup power, or communication disruptions, into the hands of EMs. The tool captures critical infrastructure managers' concerns about hurricanes, tropical storms, and Nor'Easters across Rhode Island (USA) and integrates those concerns with wind, wave, and storm surge ADvanced CIRCulation (ADCIRC) model outputs in an online ArcGIS dashboard viewer. State and local emergency operations centers will soon be able to use the online ArcGIS dashboard as a near-real-time tool to help anticipate and prepare for the consequences of a storm approaching Rhode Island. The tool can also use historical or theoretical storm model simulations to help inform hazard mitigation and emergency preparedness and response scenario planning.

RI-CHAMP is a system designed in partnership with Rhode Island emergency managers for use by Rhode Island emergency managers. However, the tool and the data collection methodology are scalable and tailorable to other regions and end-users.

This presentation features a simulation of Tropical Storm Henri (2021) plus an enhanced version ("Henri+") that demonstrates the potential impacts had Henri been a more powerful storm. The latest version of the RI-CHAMP dashboard will be showcased as will its use as a decision-making tool during real-time storm preparations. The presentation will also feature a simulation of the December 2022 "Festivus Storm" followed by audience discussion regarding the data emergency managers most need from tools like RI-CHAMP.

Meet the Presenter:

Samuel W. Adams is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Marine Affairs at the University of Rhode Island. His research addresses the vulnerability of coastal communities as a function of critical infrastructure dependencies and the cascading consequences of storm hazards. He has a master's degree in public administration from American Public University and a bachelor's degree in historic preservation from Roger Williams University.

He also serves as the University's full-time Emergency Management Director and Assistant Director of Public Safety where he oversees campus emergency management and fire safety programs. He is past president of the Rhode Island Association of Emergency Managers (RIAEM) and is a RIAEM-certified Advanced Emergency Manager.

Building Government Strategies to Address Inequality During Crisis: Strategies to Build Community Capacity, Equity, and Resilience (Room 352)

Michelle Wilson, Sarah Bowman, Jennifer Latham, Blaise Rein, and Elizabeth Moreira

The COVID-19 pandemic pushed health inequities to the forefront of public discussion, supporting a growing recognition that "place matters" when it comes to public health. Research shows that up to 80% of health outcomes stem not from genes, biology, or clinical care, but from factors in our homes, schools, jobs, and communities. As such, health disparities arise from root causes in the surrounding physical, social, political, and economic environment, a fact made remarkably clear during the COVID-19 pandemic. Early during the pandemic, the Rhode

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Island Department of Health (RIDOH) saw how communities most affected by systemic racism and other inequities were also disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, demonstrating higher COVID-19 positive test rates, higher case rates, and higher risks for exposure and transmission.

In response to the evidence, RIDOH developed a “High Density Community” (HDC) framework incorporating a social determinants of health lens to help identify a set of “tier 1” zip codes as the primary focus for targeted efforts, and “tier 2” zip codes for active monitoring. Zip codes were designated for each of the tiers using readily available census data on community level attributes including population density, income, unemployment, and the racial composition of the zip codes along with early data on COVID-19 outcomes (cases, hospitalizations) and the utilization of state-run testing resources.

Already established in RI was an infrastructure ready to engage immediately in communities most in need. Rhode Island’s Health Equity Zone (HEZ) Initiative is an innovative, equity-centered, community-led, place-based approach that brings communities together to build the infrastructure needed to achieve systemic changes at the local level. Resilient communities efficiently identify emergent needs and leverage the resources to appropriately address those needs in the community with culturally, socially relevant, and sustainable solutions.

With representation from the community, this session will unpack Rhode Island’s COVID-19 story, providing an overview and diving into what the COVID-19 pandemic revealed about the unique public health needs within communities and the infrastructure needed to address those needs more effectively, and equitably.

The role of both the Tiers framework and the HEZ Initiative’s part in the State’s pandemic response strategy, and how the initiative and data-informed response framework allowed the State to be poised to respond quickly and efficiently to health and social needs of its most impacted residents will be discussed.

Meet the Presenters:

Michelle Wilson is the Chief, Office of Special Projects in the Health Equity Institute at the Rhode Island Department of Health where she leads efforts at the intersection of race, equity, and the social determinants of health. She has extensive project management experience working in both the public and private sector, and close to 15 years’ experience in public health including six years with RIDOH’s Center for Emergency Preparedness and Response.

Sarah Bowman, MPH (She/hers) is the lead for the Rhode Island Department of Health COVID-19 data team. Sarah has been with RIDOH for over 10 years and spent the last three years supporting the COVID response.

Jennifer Latham is the Health Equity Zone (HEZ) Evaluator at RIDOH, bringing a varied experience in epidemiological and medical research, evaluation, qualitative inquiry, and data analytics. Working in the HEZ initiative, she has gained a new focus and mindset for epidemiology and evaluation practice that aligns with the community-led, place-based vision of health equity through addressing social determinants of health at the community level. She truly enjoys the challenge of evaluating this innovative initiative and is honored to be part of the HEZ team supporting health equity in her home state of Rhode Island.

Blaise Rein is an operations lead at the RI Department of Health’s Health Equity Institute. Focusing on 16 priority zip codes and addressing health disparities exacerbated by the pandemic, he coordinates with the state’s 15 Health Equity Zones, other RIDOH programs, state agencies, and community partners. Blaise holds a B.S. in Economics from Arizona State University and an MSc in Anthropology and International Development from the London School of Economics.

Elizabeth Moreira is the Assistant Program Officer at Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) and Public Health and Equity Leader for the City of Pawtucket. As the Director of Operations for Project Health CV Inc., she has facilitated multiple medical missions to Cape Verde in the long-term effort to strengthen the health care system there. Elizabeth advocates for cultural competency within health care systems and recently spearheaded multiple public health initiatives through the Pawtucket & Central Falls Beat COVID initiative.

Was Our Planning, Training, and Exercising for Naught? Observations from Rhode Island's COVID-19 response related to emergency mass vaccination and the use of MEDS-PODs (Room 353)

Brittan Bates-Manni, MS, MEP

Rhode Island has a 20-year history of planning, training, and testing its Medical Emergency Distribution System (MEDS) and Point of Dispensing (POD) plans. While these plans provided a strong foundation for the COVID-19 response, rapid growth and change were required to meet the unanticipated needs of this response. Successes and areas for improvement will be examined related to the continuum of planning, training, and exercising, as well as relationships between local, state, and federal partners for emergency mass vaccination.

Meet the Presenter:

Brittan Bates-Manni. As the Medical Countermeasures Program Director at the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) she is responsible for the direct oversight of planning and response activities regarding the Strategic National Stockpile and the Cities Readiness Initiative, ensuring that the State can receive and dispense medical countermeasures (MCM) rapidly. She led the mass vaccination operations efforts for the COVID-19 Pandemic. She serves as RIDOH's Operations Chief during Incident Command System activations (COVID-19, Whooping Cough, Measles, and H1N1 Influenza) and mass vaccination leader when not in ICS (Monkeypox and Meningitis outbreaks). She has also served as the ESF-8 Representative at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) during multiple hurricanes, tropical storms, and long-term power outages. Prior to RIDOH she worked for the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency overseeing the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program (HSEEP) and Public Information Officer roles. She fulfilled numerous shifts in SEOC activations. Ms. Bates-Manni has her B.S. in Interpersonal and Organization Communications with a minor in Political Science and a M.S. in Counseling, from Northeastern University. She holds the Advanced Emergency Manager certification from the Rhode Island Association of Emergency Managers and FEMA certifications (Master Exercise Practitioner, HSEEP Trainer, and Professional Development Series). She is currently the co-chair of the MCM workgroup for the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) and has served as a regional representative on the MCM workgroups for ASTHO as well as the National Association of County and City Health Officials.

Emergency Preparedness: How can we bridge the Gap Between Public and Private Sectors (Room 371)

Lori Adamo, CBCP, Tracy L. Hall, MBCP, CHPCP, and Kenneth Otis, CBCP, MBCI

The panel will discuss how each of the public and private sector organizations might interact with each other to create a holistic approach to emergency response and community resilience while cutting through barriers and territorial behaviors. The objective is to create a program that speaks to the issues of today, by working and planning together. The panel will discuss an integrated approach that will benefit the community as well as each partner's interest. A well-developed collaborative relationship must benefit both the private and public sector organizations and the community they serve. It must be built upon the needs and resources that have been identified as mutually beneficial to each while establishing crisis communications. The ultimate outcome and most important goal would be to build disaster resiliency, accelerate recovery and facilitate the return to normalcy, which is a win-win for all.

Meet the Presenters:

Lori Adamo, CBCP is founder and president of Code Red Business Continuity Services, LLC beginning operations in 2003. Code Red's clients range from large corporations to guiding many businesses in the country to become resilient and better prepared for a disaster.

Ms. Adamo is currently the President of the Greater Boston ACP Chapter and also serves on the National Board of Directors for ACP. Ms. Adamo served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Northeast Disaster Recovery Information Exchange (NEDRIX) as the Vice President and the Director of the Private/Public Sector Initiative for over

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seven years. She left to establish a Private Public Business Alliance in the City of Providence and the State of Rhode Island. Ms. Adamo has been published in the Providence Business News, National Industry Periodicals, and the Disaster Resource Guide covering many business continuity and disaster planning disciplines. She has also presented on various topics for industry and public sector conferences. A notable presentation was speaking at FEMA's first annual conference held in Washington DC, titled "Building Resiliency through Public Private Partnerships".

Ms. Adamo is a Certified Business Continuity Professional (CBCP) with DRII. She is certified in NIMS 100 and 300. She has a BS in Retail Marketing/ Merchandising Management and an AS in Advertising from Johnson & Wales University.

Tracy L. Hall, MBCP, CHPCP is a Senior Manager in Wolf's Advisory Group and leads the Firm's Business Continuity Planning Team. As one of the leading business continuity planning (BCP) experts in the country, she assists clients with BCP audits and assessments, business impact analyses, plan development and maintenance, training and awareness, disaster recovery tests, and simulation exercises. Tracy has over 20 years of experience in the field and helps clients across multiple industries increase their resiliency and recover following disruptions or disasters. She's also a popular speaker both regionally and nationally and has authored articles on pertinent topics related to BCP.

Kenneth Otis, CBCP, MBCI. As the Vice President of Business Resiliency, Mr. Otis is responsible for the Safety, Security and Business Continuity Planning for Bluegreen Vacations. He is a certified business continuity professional with 25+ years' experience developing, implementing, and providing leadership at times of crisis for varying organizations. Under his leadership, he has implemented the following programs, globally (6 of 7 continents): Emergency Response, Crisis Management, Business Continuity, Safety, and Physical Security programs. He has also managed countless man-made and natural disasters. He has demonstrated leadership and strong interpersonal skills and communicates effectively with all layers of management.

Participatory Action Research (PAR) Methodology in Disaster Research: Furthering the Professionalization of the Emergency Management Field (Room 372)

Dr. Jennifer Carlson, Ph.D., CEM, LCSW

What is Participatory Action Research (PAR) methodology in disaster research? This methodology—an effective tool in implementing interventions—will be explained and a research study proposed to be conducted by the presenter in 2023 using this methodology to further the professionalization of the emergency management field will be shared (Institute of Development Studies, 2023). A qualitative phenomenological study was completed on this topic (emergency management professionalization) in 2015 with findings uncovered in these areas: 1) licensure, 2) higher education and training, 3) core ethics, values, and standards, 4) code of conduct, and 5) liability (Carlson, 2015). Last year in 2022, a study approved by Anna Maria College's Institutional Review Board for a research project related to the same topic—with the subtopic above of "higher education and training" (number two, above)—was completed. This study used the Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) methodology and was noted as the first of seven to be proposed and conducted over the next seven consecutive years at the college on the topic. Findings from the study will be shared, along with the IRB proposal submitted for the study noted above, and the associated research plan, which now spans 25 years. The 2023 study seeks to address, through PAR: licensure (number one, above) in addition to education programs and scholarships number two, above), and the funding of directorships (uncovered as a needed finding from the 2022 study). These studies are intended to provide a platform to work toward the continued professionalization of the emergency management field.

Meet the Presenter:

Dr. Jennifer Carlson, Ph.D., CEM®, LCSW is a New England emergency management expert, therapist, facilitator, speaker, trainer, university faculty member, writing professional, and author of *Exploring the Professionalization of Emergency [Disaster] Management* and *Write Your Story: A Self-Start, Write Your Own Biography*. For over 20 years,

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she had dedicated her life in service to the emergency management field, deploying to disasters from Hurricane Katrina to the Boston Marathon bombing through the American Red Cross and the State of Massachusetts. She works/has worked as faculty and teaching staff for emergency management courses, workshops, and Homeland Security content at MIT for FEMA, the Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Eastern Kentucky University, Anna Maria College, and at other locations across the country while deployed. Dr. Carlson holds the Certified Emergency Manager (CEM®) certification with the International Association of Emergency Managers IAEM and is licensed as a Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) for the State of Massachusetts. With deployments spanning more than two decades, Dr. Carlson has been working as a leader in her field in coordination with FEMA, American Red Cross Disaster Services, and other organizations for many years. Dr. Carlson led 25 American responders while deployed in an executive leadership role to wildfires in British Columbia and has worked in the role of Director of Emergency Services in Massachusetts for more than 15 years; this work led to an appointment as the Senior Disaster Program Manager for the State of Massachusetts. Dr. Carlson also worked for the Commonwealth for over five years, helping to coordinate the response to the Western MA tornadoes with FEMA, and the Massachusetts response to Hurricane Sandy in New York as one of two planning chiefs on-scene, among other responsibilities and deployments during this time. As faculty, Dr. Carlson has filled the role of Professor with the Massachusetts Maritime Academy (course: Information Technology in Emergency Management), Eastern Kentucky University (course: Managing the Nation's Disasters for their Homeland Security program) and Embry Riddle Aeronautical University (course: Emergency and Disaster Management). Dr. Carlson is a trained instructor/facilitator for FEMA (course: Continuity of Operations Planning) and American Red Cross Disaster Services (courses: International Humanitarian Law, all train-the-trainer programs, and all advanced and basic Disaster Services courses to 2019). Dr. Carlson began teaching policy courses with Anna Maria College in February of 2021 and joined the faculty team full-time in August of the same year (courses listed below). Dr. Carlson believes passionately in the scholar-practitioner model (both facilitating and working in the field concurrently) to provide a current and meaningful educational experience for students. Jennifer continues to work to improve the field through board and committee work with the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), the writing of books/articles, and reviewing articles for the Journal of Emergency Management. Specifically, Jennifer serves as IAEM's Higher Education Academician Co-Chair, previously as the Co-Chair for the Training and Education Committee, and on their Scholarship Commission Nominations Task Force. Jennifer also serves as the Affairs Director in Massachusetts for the Department of Defense/ESGR. Dr. Carlson was born and raised in Massachusetts. She lived for four years on Cape Cod National Seashore when working as a Director of Emergency Services, maintaining responsibility for the coordination of disaster management on Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket for the American Red Cross. Dr. Carlson continues to work with Nantucket Island on projects, showcasing her book at author events, and has facilitated the PBS special titled "Decoding the Weather Machine." Jennifer now makes her home lakeside in Charlton, MA.

[211 in the Disaster Cycle \(Room 373\)](#)

Jay Burdick and Joe Cournoyer

As the preeminent Information and Referral function across the United States, 211 plays a key role in connecting people to needed information and resources. This connection is most critical in times of disasters of all scales, from smaller local emergencies to larger multi-county or statewide events. United Way 211 in Rhode Island has been collaborating in disasters for nearly 25 years.

This conversation will discuss what 211 does, how it supports emergency management, where it has impacted response and recovery, and where it is going.

Meet the Presenters:

Jay Burdick has over 50 years of experience in the delivery of Social Services at the local, State, Federal and National level. This has included work at the line staff, supervisory and administrative levels. He has been a

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presenter at numerous state and National conferences and has served on numerous boards of directors at the local, state and national arena. For the last 20 years, in addition to the above, Jay has also been active in the Emergency Management area. He was the Chair of RI VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) for 10 years, served on the National VOAD Board of Directors for 6 years and most recently served at FEMA as a Reserve employee in the Individual Assistance Unit; Jay attempted to retire in 2015, and again in 2019. He currently works as a consultant or limited time employee for various organizations, most recently for United Way/ 211 with their Outreach Program.

Joe Cournoyer. With nearly 24 years collaborating in disasters, Mr. Cournoyer has served as chair of the Rhode Island Voluntary Organization Active in Disaster, while a director at the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. He has managed Individual Assistance at the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency, and as a Voluntary Agency Liaison, deployed throughout the country for the Federal Emergency Management Agency. In his role as Outreach Coordinator for United Way of Rhode Island's 211 program Joe continues to work on partnerships in collaboration with community organizations, delivering critical resources.

Orneville Maine Train Derailment (Room 380)

John Selleck, PE

John Selleck was a responder to a train accident in the center of Maine in late fall 2022, which included three locomotives, four liquid asphalt tanker cars, one carbon dioxide tanker car, and a boxcar which occurred during a heavy rain event. Approximately 300 gallons leaked from the third locomotive's diesel tank due to damage. It took over a month to transfer the product from the remaining five tank cars, remove the empty tank cars, and fully remediate the site. The entire response and recovery will be outlined through photos and narrative.

Meet the Presenter:

John Selleck, P.E. has been an Oil and Hazardous Materials Responder (OHMR) II for the State of Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) for the past 14 years and previously also worked as an Environmental Engineer in the private sector. Mr. Selleck has significant response experience such as responding to over 2,600 spills as a OHMR II, including meth labs, train and truck wrecks, a ricin incident, and many other oil, hazardous, white powder, and unknown sites, and worked on superfund sites, as an engineer in private industry, and on numerous oil sites as an engineer for the State of Maine. Mr. Selleck has attended numerous professional courses, has earned degrees in physics and civil engineering, and currently holds a Professional Engineer's License.

EOC Collaboration between Federal, State, and Local Partners (Auditorium, 1st floor)

Mr. Marc R. Pappas; Thomas J. Guthlein; Todd Manni; Chief Michael A. DeMello; John Washburn

A panel of Federal, State, and local EOC managers will discuss the organization and operations at each EOC level, which tend to operate in different formats and meet different requirements based on their capabilities. They will also discuss how the request for resources flows from the local level to the federal level.

Jurisdictions establish EOCs to meet their unique requirements and needs. No two EOCs have the same design. Some jurisdictions see the EOC as the nerve center and tactical hub for incident response. Others see the EOC as a resource coordination center that locates and deploys resources but does not direct tactical-level responses. Some envision the EOC as a room with stadium seating and rows of desks facing large screens, while others imagine an open room with tables and chairs for each Emergency Support Function (ESF). In the end, the structure and functions largely depend on the requirements of the individual jurisdiction. Primary functions of staff in EOCs, whether virtual or physical, include:

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- Collecting, analyzing, and sharing information - Supporting resource needs and requests
- Including allocation and tracking - Coordinating plans and determining current and future needs
- In some cases, providing coordination and policy direction

Meet the Panelists:

Mr. Marc R. Pappas was appointed Director of the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) on December 27, 2018. He is a retired career law-enforcement professional with over twenty years of service. Director Pappas worked his way up through the ranks at RIEMA, first as Regional Response Coordinator, then as Chief of the Preparedness Division, then as Acting Administrator Operations Management, then as Executive Administrator.

As the Director he serves as the policy advisor to Governor McKee on emergency management matters and the liaison between the Federal Emergency Management Agency and all local emergency management offices throughout the state. He served as a special advisor to Governor McKee on Covid-19. He oversees the coordination of various federal disaster and non-disaster grants for the State of Rhode Island and leads the State Interoperable Communications Committee, the State Emergency Response Commission, and is the Vice Chair of the Emergency Management Advisory Council.

Director Pappas graduated from Rhode Island College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. He resides in Coventry with his wife Cheryl and daughter Alyssa.

Thomas J. Guthlein is Deputy Director for RIEMA. Mr. Guthlein joined RIEMA in the fall of 2013 after completing 35 years of service in the United States Coast Guard. During his time was involved with Hurricane Bob, support for the Earthquake in Haiti, Hurricane Katrina, and Hurricane Irene. He assumed the newly established position of Chief of Technical Services. The Technical Services Section (TSS) is one of four functional program areas within the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA). TSS is responsible for the Rhode Island Communications Program (RISCOM), supporting the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) and development of the Rhode Island Critical Infrastructure Program (RICIP). The Section's primary goal is to create and oversee statewide systems with an all-hazards approach to emergency management. The TSS is also responsible for (10) specific core capabilities outlined by the National Preparedness Goal as established by Presidential Policy Directive 8 to reduce loss of life and property within the State of Rhode Island during natural and man-made incidents.

In August 2018 he moved into the Emergency Management Agency's Operations Branch Chief position, supervising the agency's operations on day-to-day basis. He then moved into the Executive Administrator position in the spring of 2019 overseeing all operations and administrative duties in the agency. Additional duties include the role of the State Emergency Operations Center Manager during activations.

Tom uses his background in strategic planning, operational execution, leadership skills and operational background as he moves the agency forward in achieving its goals. He holds a Bachelor Science degree in History from Regents University in Albany, New York, and attended the Coast Guard's Multi-agency leadership school located at the Coast Guard Academy. He currently lives in Bristol, Rhode Island with his wife Victoria who is from East Providence, Rhode Island.

Todd Manni began volunteering at the Town of Smithfield Emergency Management Agency in 1993 at age 16. In 2005, Manni was appointed part-time Emergency Management Director and in 2022, he was re-appointed full-time Director. He became one of the state's first CERT Instructors in 2003 and has been an American Heart Association CPR instructor since 2011. In 2005, Smithfield was recognized as one of the first communities in Rhode Island to meet the requirements for the National Weather Service as a StormReady Community program. Manni has been recognized as Rhode Island's Emergency Manager of the Year in 2006 and 2015.

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Manni attended the Community College of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College. A lifelong resident of Smithfield, he is an Eagle Scout and Cubmaster for Pack 3 Greenville. He and his wife, Brittan, have two sons.

Chief Michael A. DeMello is currently the Chief of Department for the Bristol Fire Department, and EMA Director for the Town of Bristol, Rhode Island. Chief DeMello has 32+ years of experience in the fire service, serving in career and volunteer departments. He holds numerous certifications and has been a nationally registered paramedic for over 20 years. Chief DeMello is credentialed as a Chief Fire Officer by the Center for Public Safety Excellence.

Dr. Clara Decerbo, CEM, is the Director of Providence Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and has an interesting background in emergency management and as an EMT-cardiac/firefighter. She has a PhD and MA from URI in marine affairs with a focus on hazards and disaster response, and a BA from Middlebury College in international studies with a focus on Middle Eastern history and Arabic. She is a Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) through the International Association of Emergency Managers.

John Washburn has a combined 24 years of service from 1986 to 2010, with the United States Marine Corps and held full and part time positions within the Rhode Island Army National Guard. During his service, he had four military occupation specialties (MOS) - Infantryman, Scout Reconnaissance, Chemical Operations Specialist, and Military Police. He completed several deployments overseas to various locations within the Mediterranean and Middle East and is a combat veteran of Operation Just Cause-Panama, Operation Desert Storm/Shield-Kuwait, and Operation Iraqi Freedom-Iraq.

Mr. Washburn started with the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) in 2004 as a contractor, working as the Regional Response and then as the Technical Services Supervisor. In 2014, he was named Administrator, Operations Manager. During his ten-year employment with RIEMA, Mr. Washburn was deployed under the emergency management assistance compact (EMAC) to Hurricanes Katrina and Gustav. He also worked in the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) as the Operations Section Chief for major disaster declarations DR(s) #1894-Floods, #4027-TS Irene, #4107-Winter Storm, and #4212-Winter Storm.

From 2015 through 2019 he served as the Administrator, Operations Manager with the following state agencies: Department of Child, Youth and Families, Department of Human Services, and the State Juvenile Detention Center, overseeing and enhancing programs within these agencies. Mr. Washburn returned to RIEMA in 2019 as Administrator, Operations Manager, overseeing and assisting with several key agency programs and projects.



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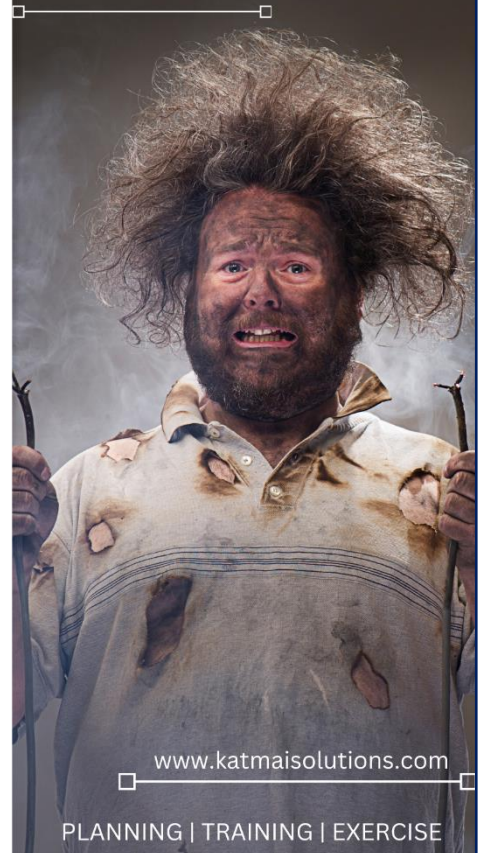


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Breakout Session 3

[NOAA's Emergency Response & Management Toolkit: Coordinating On-scene Our Scientific Community in Support of Responders \(Room 351\)](#)

William Whitmore, Ph.D.

While most emergency managers work closely with NOAA's National Weather Service, NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS) also has several offices that play key roles in natural disaster preparedness planning and emergency response. This presentation will explain how offices such as the National Geodetic Survey and Office of Response and Restoration can help emergency managers and responders better prepare for and react to emergencies and natural disasters. Several NOS offices have pre-approved FEMA mission assignments that can be rapidly requested. Proven NOS emergency response tools that are publicly available will be displayed and explained. A case study on the 2022 Hurricane Ian response will be shared as an example.

Meet the Presenter:

William Whitmore works within NOAA's National Ocean Service's Office of Response and Restoration. His role as a Scientific Support and Regional Planning Coordinator allows him to work closely with the USCG, FEMA, and different state environmental and emergency management agencies. William has worked for NOAA for more than 17 years in a variety of roles. He has responded to dozens of oil spills and natural disasters including Hurricane Katrina and the Deepwater Horizon well blowout. He has an MA in Sociology from the University of New Orleans and a PhD in Marine Affairs from the University of Rhode Island.

[Recovery – Past, Present, and Future \(Room 352\)](#)

Armand Randolph

Abstract not provided.

Meet the Presenter:

Mr. Randolph leads RIEMA's Recovery Branch, including the administration of Public Assistance and Individual Assistance disaster grants. Additional tasks include developing State and Local emergency plans, logistics and operations coordination with stakeholders impacted by a disaster, and the integration of the National Disaster Recovery Framework within the State of Rhode Island. Previous positions at RIEMA have included External Affairs Officer, Planning Section Chief, Operations Section Chief, Public Assistance Supervisor, Grants Management, and the State Hazard Mitigation Officer.

Over his 19-year professional tenure at Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency, Mr. Randolph has responded to 7 Major Declarations, 5 Emergency Declarations, various state emergencies, and educated thousands of individuals on Emergency Management and Homeland Security history, operations, and professional initiatives.

Mr. Randolph earned the rank of Captain serving in the Rhode Island Air National Guard and the United States Air Force, holding various positions in his 16 years of service. He served as the Director of Logistics, Joint Force Headquarters, RI National Guard, and he worked with Army and Air National Guard personnel to develop Standard Operating Procedures for base mobility, deployment control centers, base re-call process, and conducted readiness assessment of logistic activities of Air National units in Rhode Island. As the Deputy Director Joint Force Development, Doctrine and Training, Mr. Randolph provided operational analysis, evaluation, and training for Joint Force Headquarters staff, and directed the review and assessment of readiness plans and programs. His position as the Traditional Commanders Activity Coordinator, Office of Defense Cooperation at the U.S. Embassy in Nassau,

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Bahamas, encompassed planning, coordinating, and managing symposiums, workshops and conferences between the Bahamian Government, the United States Federal Government, Rhode Island State agencies and private industries in Rhode Island. He was instrumental in developing training requirements and guiding professional information exchanges in the areas of emergency management, economic development, law enforcement, military affairs, cybercrime, port security, maritime law and maritime officer boarding and pirating.

He also works as an Adjunct Professor at the Community College of Rhode Island teaching introduction to Homeland Security and the fundamentals of Emergency Management. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Secondary Education from the University of Rhode Island.

Funding a Climate Resilient Community (Room 371)

Rae-Anne Culp and Melinda Hopkins

Natural hazards pose a serious risk to Rhode Island communities. Due to climate change, many natural hazards are expected to become more frequent and more severe. Reducing the impacts these hazards have on lives, properties and the economy is a top priority for many communities. There are funding opportunities that can help your community become more resilient.

Meet the Presenters:

Rae-Anne Culp is the Mitigation Planning Supervisor & State Hazard Mitigation Officer for Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA). Rae-Anne joined the Planning and Mitigation team in the beginning of December 2022 after a year as a contractor for the Recovery Branch. Rae-Anne was contracted to review COVID-19 projects and was the liaison to assist State Agencies with their projects. After winter storm Kenan hit in January of 2022, she became the liaison for the state to work that disaster declaration with FEMA and sub-applicants. Rae-Anne's mission as the State Hazard Mitigation Officer is to get all 39 RI municipalities current with their Local Hazard Mitigation Plans. She is also working toward becoming a Certified Floodplain Manager to be able to assist communities with their mitigation needs.

Melinda Hopkins is the Planning Branch Chief and Acting State Floodplain Coordinator with the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA). She is a Certified Floodplain Manager with experience in floodplain management, grants administration, hazard mitigation planning and project implementation having worked closely with Local, State and Federal officials. Her work has focused on implementing the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs, the National Flood Insurance Program as well as the Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (Risk MAP) program for the State of Rhode Island. Melinda is also the Resilience Coordinator for RIEMA and helped to develop a statewide Climate Resilience Action Strategy, Resilient Rhody, in collaboration with business, academic, and nonprofit partners. She is the RIEMA representative on the Governors Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4), which incorporates consideration of climate change impacts into the powers and duties of all state agencies. Ms. Hopkins holds a B.A. degree in Geography/Justice Studies with an Environmental Science Minor from Rhode Island College in Providence, Rhode Island.

National Qualification System (Room 372)

David J. Schnell, Jr.

The Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency is the coordinator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency National Qualification System for the state. The National Qualification System establishes and promotes baseline qualifications and a national incident workforce consisting of incident management, incident support, and emergency management personnel. This presentation will cover the basic tenants of the NQS system to include task books, training requirements, and the process of establishing a Quality Review Board. The presentation will include some of the challenges and advantages to the system.

Meet the Presenter:

David J. Schnell, Jr. is the Preparedness Branch Chief at the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency and oversees training, exercises, radiological program, the State Emergency Response Commission, and related preparedness activities. David has over forty years of emergency management experience including over 25 years' experience in law enforcement and correctional leadership positions. David has spent over ten years working in healthcare emergency management and security with both Lifespan Health System and Care New England. David has a master's degree in criminal justice and numerous FEMA certifications.

Leadership Through Lived Experience: The Contribution of Individuals with Disabilities to The Field of Emergency Management (Room 373)

Valerie C. Haven

People who self-identify as having disabilities and/or access and functional needs (DAFN) are part of a vulnerable population protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act. They are rarely viewed as having leadership qualities. Exceptions are Presidents Abraham Lincoln, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and John F. Kennedy who all had disabilities while in office. Those with disabilities are more likely to be harmed during a disaster. Their recovery is often slower because support systems are often compromised, and many do not receive appropriate information or training to survive. By integrating people with disabilities into planning, they can guide one another and support the whole community during and post crisis. Many DAFN persons are resilient, creative, and have the capacity to think outside of the box. They've developed high-level communication skills and multi-tasking strategies. Session participants will explore how to locate consumers with disabilities and/or access and functional needs in their communities. Techniques for communicating with individuals according to their life circumstances will be discussed, along with how responders can connect with those who support people with disabilities directly. The value of establishing a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) with DAFN volunteers will also be discussed.

Meet the Presenter:

Valerie Claire Haven is the first individual who is blind to earn a degree in emergency management from the Massachusetts Maritime Academy. After graduating, she opened her consulting practice entitled, "Redefining Bravery: Whole Community Consulting." As part of her practice, Valerie consults for the University of Massachusetts and New York University. Valerie is also an ordained minister within the United Church of Christ. She supports inter-faith clergy working in emergency management chaplaincy and hospice.

Incident Management: Beyond ICS (Room 380)

Tim Riecker, CEDP

Incident managers are professionals who save lives and communities. The Incident Command System (ICS) provides an important foundation to incident management by grounding us in standards, providing structure and processes that help mitigate against the fact that all incidents themselves are unique. While ICS may not be perfect, the Incident Command System has proven to be effective when properly implemented. However, our greatest obstacle to effective incident management is overreliance on ICS. ICS is not the solution to incident management – it's a tool. For incident management to be truly effective, we need to think beyond ICS. Effective incident management requires proven leadership and management skills – something that will be addressed to a lesser degree in this presentation because it's otherwise talked about so much, though I will emphasize that incident management is a team sport, requiring leadership at all levels, not just of the incident commander. Further, effective incident management requires a grasp of emergency management, especially an awareness of plans and capabilities of partner agencies and organizations. Incident managers must also understand the fundamentals of project management and apply them within the scope of incident action planning and execution of those plans. Incident

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managers also need to think beyond the obvious. Incident management is a deliberate series of actions taken to solve problems associated with incidents and disasters. There are many problems that may be caused, directly or indirectly, by whatever issue we are dealing with, be it flood, fire, or hostile event. Incident management needs to prioritize these problems and take action to address them. Because incident managers are often too involved in tactics, their focus is barely beyond the immediate effects and actions that save lives and stabilize the incident. While these are priorities, they tend to keep us fixated on a particular footprint with little to no consideration beyond that footprint of the ancillary issues that an incident may cause. Incident management is also a technical skill, and one that can diminish over time. To maintain proficiency, it requires use, practice, and continued training to learn new approaches and tools. This presentation will discuss all these factors and more to support a more comprehensive perspective of incident management, beyond ICS.

Meet the Presenter:

Tim Riecker, CDEP. Mr. Riecker is a Certified Emergency and Disaster Professional with an extensive career in public safety and emergency management spanning over 27 years, including time as a local responder and chief officer, local emergency manager, senior staff for the New York State Office of Emergency Management, and public safety consultant. He is a founder, partner, and principal consultant for Emergency Preparedness Solutions, LLC and is recognized nationally as a specialist in various aspects of incident management and preparedness. Tim has a depth of experience in major incident management, including direct involvement in the management of 21 Federally declared disasters. He has served in state and local Emergency Operations Centers and as a Type II Planning Section Chief for responses including 9/11, United flight 587, Colgan Air flight 3407, Hurricane Sandy, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Tim has had a range of benchmark opportunities in his career, including presenting to a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and leading some of the largest full-scale exercises ever conducted in the nation. He is chair of his town's public safety committee, serves on the board of directors for the International Public Safety Association (IPSA), is a member of the industry advisory board for Embry Riddle Aeronautical University's emergency services programs, is a member of the NFPA 1600/1660 technical committee, and is the program manager and instructor of an academic emergency management program. Tim regularly blogs about various emergency management topics under the moniker of The Contrarian Emergency Manager.

Active Shooter & Mass Casualty Events: Cultural Competency & Incident Dynamics - 6 Case studies of psychological trauma support (Auditorium, 1st floor)

Bradford Cole

Sandy Hook, Las Vegas, Orlando, Parkland, Pittsburgh, and US Capitol all suffered tragic active shooter incidents/mass casualty events. The psychological trauma response template, on paper, was similar. However, the cultural considerations and incident dynamics greatly impacted how services were provided and their outcomes. Those who provided support at the incidents will review the unique service aspects of each incident and how outcomes were impacted.

Meet the Presenter:

Bradford Cole. Mr. Cole is K9FR's subject matter expert and thought leader. He has 39 years' experience in the security, crisis management and investigative professions. A responder to the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy, Mr. Cole's deployments include United States Capitol PD incidents, Pittsburgh, PA synagogue shooting, Boston Marathon bombings, Las Vegas concert shooting, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting as well as peer support for public safety. He was deployed to Smyrna, DE to assist in the aftermath of the 19-hour prison siege, hostage taking and homicide. Mr. Cole is a member of the American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS), Boston Medical Reserve Corps (BMRC) and Boston Public Health Commission - Office of Public Health Preparedness - Disaster Behavioral Health - Crisis Response Group. Group Leader for K9FR's Rapid Intervention Go (RInGo) Team. He is a member of Critical Incident Teams for PD, FD, EMS, and DOC as well. Certifications include Active

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Shooter/Hostile Event Response (ASHER) Program Specialist, Psychological First Aid (PFA), Tactical-Psychological First Aid (T-PFA), Post Traumatic Stress Management (PTSM), Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM), Skills for Psychological Recovery (SPR) and Mental Health First Aid (MHFA). Mr. Cole is also Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE), Loss Prevention Certified (LPC) and principal of Diogenes LLC; a boutique investigative agency focusing on white collar crime. K9 First Responders, Inc. (K9FR) is a non-profit Critical Incident Mental Health Support (CIMHS) organization. K9FR Teams bridge the gap between a traumatic event and the connection to mental health services using Trauma Informed Care and Zero-Hour Behavioral Management techniques. A compassionate trauma informed presence leveraging the human-canine bond helping restore a person's emotional and cognitive equilibrium. They currently serve 125+ agencies across eight states and the District of Columbia.

Do not forget to attend the closing ceremony at 3:30 p.m. in the Auditorium.

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A special thank you to

Mr. John Gustafson

For his \$1,600.00 individual donation to the 2023 Rhode Island Preparedness Conference in recognition of RIAEM's 20th anniversary.

Mr. Gustafson was the Executive Secretariat of the National Response Team in Washington, D.C. He served in this position during and post the 9/11 terrorist attacks of 2001 and was instrumental in improving our nation's ability to plan for and respond to disasters. His efforts include establishing standards that follow good governance practices across all levels of government and non-governing stakeholders in both national and international initiatives. This included promoting a holistic approach to disaster response planning and mandating the use of Incident Command System (ICS) as our common on-scene response decision-making management system. John Gustafson has passionately dedicated his life to improving disaster management nationwide in support of our responders and the communities they serve.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 CONFERENCE SPONSORS

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the companies and organizations that contributed to this year's event. Without your financial support, time, and dedication this conference would not have been possible. Thank you for your continued support of the Rhode Island Association of Emergency Managers and its mission.



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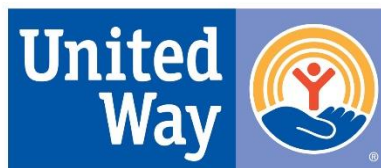


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Please visit us at www.riaem.com and consider becoming a member or corporate sponsor.

RIAEM thanks the 2023 Rhode Island Preparedness Conference Planning Committee for their months of hard work to make this event a reality.

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