



2025 SPRING CONFERENCE

**Harrah's Conference Center
Cherokee, North Carolina**

BLANK INSIDE COVER

**North Carolina
Emergency Management
Association**

**SPRING 2025
Conference**

Harrah's Conference Center
Cherokee, North Carolina

In Cooperation with the NC Division of Emergency Management

Announcements and General Information

- Please Check in at the Conference Registration Desk upon arrival.
- Please wear your conference badge at all daytime conference activities.
- Your registration fee includes entrance to all conference events and social functions. Your registration package includes the ticket(s) required for admission to the Tuesday evening Banquet.
- All vendor displays are located in the Exhibition Hall near the conference registration area and the main conference meeting area.
 - All conference breaks will be held in this vendor area.
- Lunch is provided on Tuesday.
- On Monday evening, there will be a President's Reception (with music provided) held in Rooms 101/102/114 starting at 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday evening's Banquet will be held in Rooms 101/102/114 with a networking opportunity in the area immediately outside those rooms.
- Following the Banquet, you are invited to stay to enjoy music by Johnny B's Beach and Boogie.

Thank you to our Conference Sponsors!

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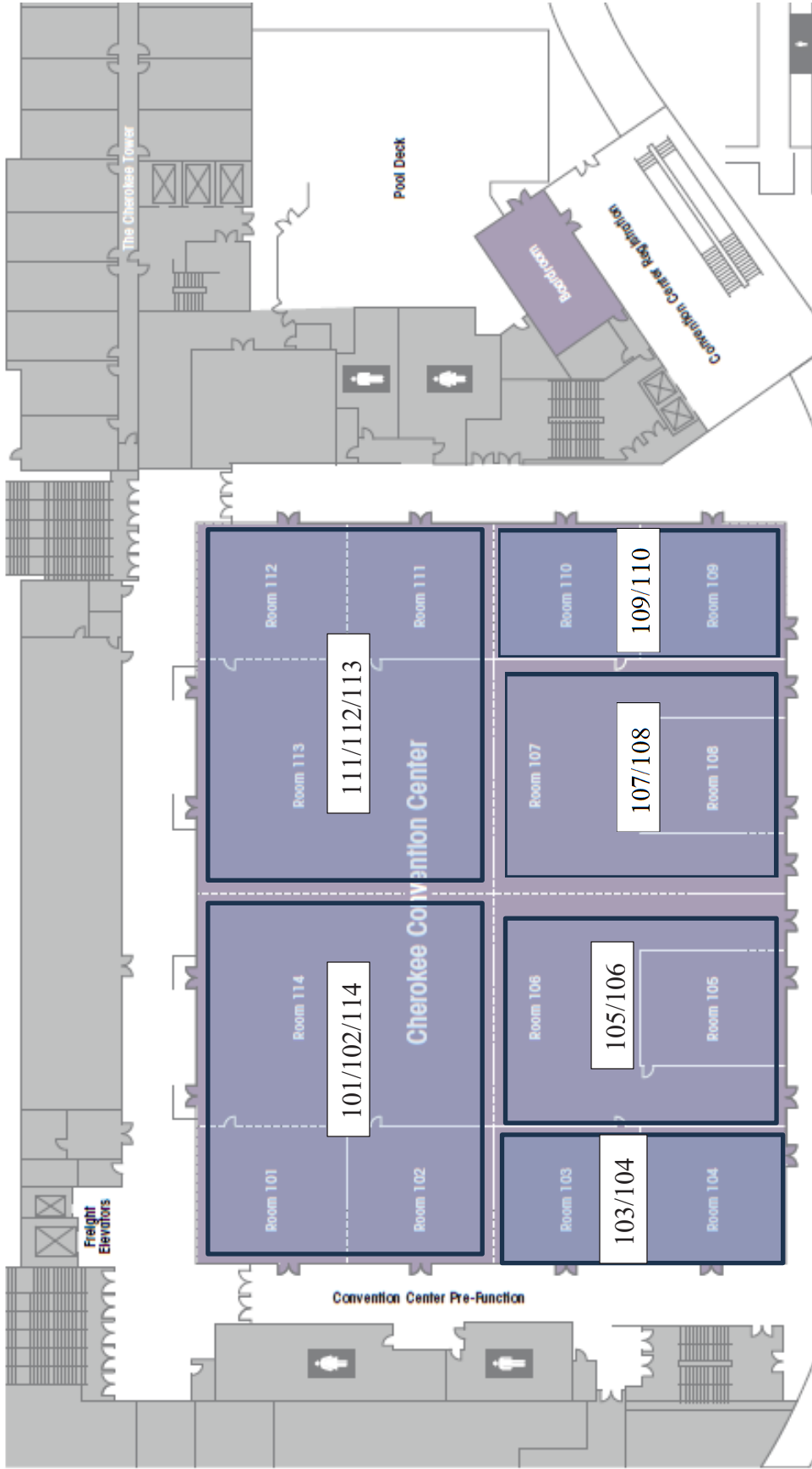
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SUNDAY (March 23rd, 2025)

| Conference Registration | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 12:00 pm – 7:00 pm | Conference Registration |
| 4:00 p.m. | Room 109/110 |
| 4:30 p.m. | Room 107/108 |
| 7:00 p.m. | Room 107/108 |
| | NCEMA Executive Committee Meeting |
| | Room 107/108 |
| | Program Committee Meeting |
| | Room 107/108 |
| | Training Committee Meeting |
| | Room 109/110 |

MONDAY (March 24th, 2025)

| TIME | 111/112/113 | 103/104 | 105/106 | 107/108 | 109/110 |
|---------------|--|---|--|---|-------------------------------|
| 8:00 – 9:00 | Registration | | | | |
| 9:00 – 9:30 | Opening Ceremony | | | | |
| 9:30– 10:30 | Keynote Speaker: NCEM Director Will Ray | | | | |
| 10:30-11:00 | Break | | | | |
| 11:00 – 12:00 | Virginia Beach's Pathway to Creating a Flood Resilient Community | | | | |
| 12:00 – 1:30 | Lunch (on your own) Food Truck available outside the conference center, in addition to the restaurants inside. Food Truck is Ben's Backdraft BBQ. | | | | |
| 1:00 – 2:00 | Infrastructure Resilience Planning Framework (Virtual) | | | | |
| 2:00 – 2:30 | Break | | | | |
| 2:30 – 3:15 | From Crisis to Clarity: The Critical Role of PIOs in the Helene Response | Do I Need to Build a SAR Specific IMT? | Grant Writing for Emergency Services | Sports and Special Event Planning in Higher Ed | NCEM Certification Testing |
| 3:15 – 4:00 | Season Outlook and Hurricane Helene Review (Virtual) | Go Fund Me... NOT* | Retirement & Your Financial Future By Design | Getting Real about Disaster Housing | |
| 4:05 – until | | Awards Committee | Higher Education Caucus | Legislative Committee | Municipal Caucus |
| 7:00 – until | President's Reception in Room 101/102/114 | | | | |

TUESDAY (March 25th, 2025)

| TIME | 111/112/113 | 103/104 | 105/106 | 107/108 | 109/110 |
|---------------|---|---------------------------------|--|--|---|
| 9:00 – 10:00 | Community Lifelines Status System | | | | |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | Break | | | | |
| 10:30 -11:30 | Rethinking Emergency Management: Insights From Brock Long | | | | |
| 11:15-11:30 | Break | | | | |
| 11:30 – 12:30 | Heat Hazards in North Carolina | | | | |
| 12:30 – 1:30 | Western Branch Meeting Box Lunch | | Central Branch Meeting Box Lunch | Eastern Branch Meeting Box Lunch | Lunch Space for those not in meetings |
| 1:30 – 2:15 | It's a Different, Different World | Leveraging Technology in Crisis | Emergency Response to Alternate Fuels | Stress, Moral Injury, and the Path to Restoring Well-being and Effectiveness | Historic Resilience |
| 2:15-2:30 | Break | | | | |
| 2:30 – 3:15 | Civil Demonstrations: Lessons Learned | ESF 11 Planning | Leading and Managing People in Steady-state and Response: Lessons Learned the Hard Way | Mass Feeding Task Force | Beyond Words: Expanding Communication Equity Access |
| 3:15-3:30 | Break | | | | |
| 3:30 - until | NC EIM Association Meeting (members only, please) | | | | |
| 6:30 – 7:00 | Networking outside Room 101/102/114 | | | | |
| 7:00 - until | Banquet in Room 101/102/114 | | | | |

WEDNESDAY (March 26th, 2025)

| TIME | 111/112/113 | 107/108 | 109/110 | Boardroom | Field Trip |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|----------------------------|--|
| 9:00 – 10:00 | NWS Tabletop Exercise(Virtual) | Operation Mountain Hope: A New Red Cross Approach | | | |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | Break | | | | |
| 10:30 – 11:15 | NWS Tabletop Exercise(Virtual) | Practical Application of AI for EM (Virtual) | | | EBCI Field Trip 9:00-12:00 Meet at First Floor Entrance |
| 11:15 – 12:00 | NWS Tabletop Exercise(Virtual) | | | | |
| Conclusion of Conference, Thank you for Attending! (Lunch on your own) (NCEM Classes will continue after lunch) | | | | | |
| 1:00 – 5:00 | NCEM Course: Web EOC | NCEM Course: SARTopo(Thursday only) | NCEM Course: HSEEP- continues all day Thursday and Friday Morning | TASAB Meeting 1:00-4:00 | |

Spring 2025 NCEMA Conference Details

Monday March 24th

Opening Ceremonies:

| | |
|--|--|
| Welcome by NC Emergency Management Association President | Daniel Roten |
| Presentation of Colors <i>American Legion Steve Youngdeer Post #143 was the first Native American Post in the Country</i> | American Legion Steve Youngdeer Post #143 |
| Pledge of Allegiance | Daniel Roten |
| Prayer | Mark Howell |
| Local Officials' Introduction and Comments | Principal Chief Michell Hicks |
| Conference Announcements | Catherine Hughes |
| NCEM Director's Introduction and Comments | Director William Ray |

General Sessions

Keynote Speaker – NCEM Director William Ray

William Ray was appointed Director of Emergency Management in July 2021 and is charged with leading efforts to ensure the state's preparedness and coordinating needed staff and resources to support local responses to, and recovery from, all hazards and threats. He also serves as the state's deputy homeland security advisor collaborating with federal and state public safety, law enforcement, and intelligence agencies. Ray most recently served as the chief of staff at North Carolina Emergency Management. He joined NCEM in early 2018 as the assistant director for the Plans and Homeland Security Section. Ray also has served in several emergency response roles at the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, in local government and in the private sector. Ray holds a bachelor's degree in international studies from the Virginia Military Institute and a master's degree in public health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He currently serves as Vice Chair of the State Emergency Response Commission, on the Radiation Protection Commission, and on the Interagency Council for Coordinating Homelessness Programs. Ray also serves on the Governor's Homeland Security Advisor Council (GHSAC) Executive Committee, the GHSAC Foreign Influence Work Group Steering Committee, as a Tri-Chair for the NEMA-GHSAC-ASTHO Joint Policy Work Group, and served on both the ASTHO Preparedness Policy Committee, and the N.C. Institute of Medicine's Pandemic Preparedness Task Force Steering Committee.

Virginia Beach's Pathway to Creating a Flood Resilient Community

The presentation will cover the City of Virginia Beach's pathway to creating a flood resilient community. From starting with a vision in 2015 to the current day implementation and delivering of projects. The presentation will cover topics that should be explored when creating a flood resilient community.

Mike Tippin, Lead Stormwater Engineer – City of Virginia Beach Public Works leads the Stormwater Engineering Center for the City of Virginia Beach's Department of Public Works. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the Commonwealth of Virginia and graduated from Old Dominion University in 2000 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. After graduation he worked in private consulting for 13 years before joining the City of Virginia Beach Department of Public Works in 2013.

Kyle Coolbaugh, Stormwater Extension Agent – City of Virginia Beach Public Works is a Certified Floodplain Manager and a graduate of Old Dominion University with over 10 years of experience in

municipal infrastructure. As a lifelong resident of southeast Virginia, he has seen firsthand how flooding impacts communities, transportation networks, and most of all, the residents who have had to suffer through the aftermath and an uncertain future.

Lunch Break – Food Truck available outside, in addition to restaurants inside the conference center.

Infrastructure Resilience Planning Framework

Infrastructure is the backbone of our communities, providing not only critical services (such as water, transportation, electricity, and communications), but also the means for health, safety, and economic growth. These systems often extend beyond our communities providing service to entire regions and contributing to the delivery of National Critical Functions. Given the vital importance of infrastructure to our social and economic well-being, it is imperative we ensure our networks are strong, secure, and resilient. In order for communities to thrive in the face of uncontrollable circumstances and adapt to changing conditions (e.g., evolving security threats, impacts from extreme weather, technological development, and socio-economic shifts), we must work to make our infrastructure more resilient. This presentation will outline the Infrastructure Resilience Planning Framework which was developed to provide an approach for localities, regions, and the private sector to work together to plan for the security and resilience of critical infrastructure services in the face of multiple threats and changes.

Josh Modlin, Protective Security Advisor – Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency serves as a Protective Security Advisor for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). In this role, he works with public sector partners, such as state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, as well as private sector organizations essential to the nation's homeland security to reduce risk and enhance the cyber and physical resiliency of critical infrastructure. Prior to joining DHS/CISA, Josh served as a Critical Infrastructure Specialist for the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management (NCEM). At NCEM, he coordinated with public and private sector partners statewide to mitigate and respond to threats to critical infrastructure. Josh is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps and currently resides in the Raleigh, NC area.

Breakout Sessions 2:30-3:15

From Crisis to Clarity: The Critical Role of PIOs in the Helene Response

Three government communications professionals who deployed in the aftermath of Helene share their experiences and lessons learned serving as Public Information Officers (PIOs) during Helene recovery. Hear about the challenges faced in a high-pressure environment with limited resources, the innovative approaches used to disseminate accurate information, and the critical impact of timely public messaging on community recovery. Ultimately, this session will demonstrate how effective communication serves as the backbone of successful disaster recovery efforts to inform future emergency response strategies.

Liz Cooper, Public Communications Director – Union County, North Carolina

Victorian Simmons, Public Information Officer – Town of Apex, North Carolina

Kellie Cannon, Public Information Officer – Polk County, NC

Do I need to build a SAR specific IMT?

The All Hazards Incident Management Team concept is built around the premise that the “Consequences of Disaster are Predictable”. Search and Rescue incidents have complexities and require special considerations, however AHIMT are the appropriate resource to manage SAR? Join us to discuss how to make your AHIMT successful.

Billy Winn, Owner/Operator – NEX Disaster Services

Grant Writing for Emergency Services

Grants are one way that an agency can find funding to complete projects and purchase equipment that may otherwise go unfunded. However, most people who write grants lack much of the knowledge to be successful in obtaining funding. This presentation focuses on building a foundational knowledge to aid in the success of those within the departments who are part of the grant writing program. It is the goals of the presentation to build knowledge of grant writing, dispel myths, provide tips for success and share resources in increasing the opportunities for success.

David Hesselmeyer, President/CEO – On Target Preparedness

Emergency planning for Sports and Special Event

This presentation will detail planning activities needed to prepare for sports and large special events. Participants will walk away with a basic template for an Event Action Plan (EAP).

Kyle Lanasa, Operations Coordinator – UNC Charlotte

Ryan Lambert, Emergency Management Specialist – UNC Charlotte

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| Breakout Sessions 3:15-4:00 |
|------------------------------------|

Season Outlook and Hurricane Helene Review

This presentation will provide a look at the upcoming Spring Season weather and will provide an outlook regarding temperature, precipitation, and severe storm potential. In addition, a review of Hurricane Helene will be provided from a National Weather Service local office perspective.

Nick Petro, Warning Coordination Meteorologist – National Weather Service Forecast Office Raleigh

Trisha Palmer, Warning Coordination Meteorologist – National Weather Service Forecast Office Greenville-Spartanburg

Phil Hysell, Warning Coordination Meteorologist – National Weather Service Forecast Office Blacksburg

Go Fund Me... NOT*

Through the experience of working recovery K9s in the aftermath of Helene, it became apparent that the disaster response unfortunately facilitated not just the presence of untrained, unreliable K9s and handlers, but examples of unprofessional, unethical, and even criminal behavior became apparent.

This presentation will bring attention to problems identified during Helene and suggest recommendations for agency officials. The need for creating state standards specifically for K9s teams will be a focus of the discussion. While it is well known that the use of K9 teams and volunteers should be vetted for effectiveness and professionalism long before an agency deploys them, what is often less considered is how the agency can be

“guilty by association.” The hurricane response exemplifies the importance in considering liability, safety, accountability and potential criminal activity of those in association.

Dr. Lisa Briggs, Missing Person’s Specialist – National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, WCU EDM Program, Macon County Sheriff’s Office

Edwin Grant – Macon County Sheriff’s Office

Retirement & Your Financial Future By Design

In this interactive workshop, participants will discuss emergency preparedness from the perspective of personal finances. The main focus will center around how you can translate your vision of retirement into tangible goals and strategies. Whether 10 years or 40 years from retirement, attendees will learn investment strategies that complement their current state retirement plans and Social Security options. Discussion will also focus on building flexibility into strategies for the unexpected, including insurance and estate planning considerations.

Katie Wall, Financial Advisor – Edward Jones

Getting Real About Disaster Housing

You can't put a trailer here. Your permit is delayed. We are understaffed.

Disaster housing is one of the most critical components of individual, household, and community recovery. However, it is laden with barriers and unconsidered planning variables that aren't realized until after an event. This session is designed to be a space to have frank conversations about disaster housing and its barriers. It is an open forum to discuss best practices and great opportunities available to communities, emergency managers, local leaders, and states.

Dr. Megan Bond, Program Manager, Individual Assistance and Disaster Housing – IEM International, Inc.

Chris Smith, Director, Individual Assistance and Disaster Housing – IEM International, Inc.

Monday Afternoon Meetings at 4:05 p.m.

- Legislative Committee Meeting Rooms 107/108
- Awards Committee Meeting Rooms 103/104
- Institutes of Higher Education (IHE) Caucus Meeting Rooms 105/106
- Municipal Caucus Meeting Rooms 109/110

President’s Reception – Monday Evening

Join us at 7:00 p.m. in Rooms 101/102/114 for our informal President’s Reception (with music provided by Johnny B’s Beach and Boogie). Rounds 1 and 2 of the Cornhole Tournament will also take place!

General Sessions

Community Lifeline Status System (CLSS)

The Community Lifeline Status System (CLSS) presentation will demonstrate how this innovative and no-cost tool transforms EOC disaster operations regarding lifeline-based impact assessments. Developed by DHS Science & Technology Directorate in collaboration with FEMA and CUSEC, CLSS helps state, local, and tribal emergency management agencies operationalize the Community Lifelines framework through a standardized impact assessments and data visualization framework using ESRI technology. The presentation will showcase how CLSS enables data-driven decision-making, improves cross-jurisdictional collaboration, and enhances situational awareness during emergencies. Attendees will learn how this no-cost tool integrates with existing emergency management systems and can be implemented within their own agencies to strengthen community resilience beginning in April 2025.

Halil Grieb, Director of Delivery Services / Project Management – G & H International Services brings over 20 years of emergency management expertise across multiple jurisdictions and sectors. As Emergency Management Director for Jefferson County, Colorado and Alachua County, Florida he has led planned and led EOC activations for numerous major incidents, including a 27-week COVID-19 activation. His experience includes serving as Assistant Director of Emergency Management at the University of Florida (his alma mater), where he managed the University the EOC facility and developed numerous comprehensive emergency management programs as well as game day / special event Incident Action Plans. At the City of Plano, he implemented the first comprehensive unified command Incident/Event Action Plan process for major events and one of the first ever municipal emergency management social media programs in 2008. Hal has been an EOC, HSEEP, and Advanced Incident Command Systems lead instructor to public safety personnel in Florida, Texas, and Colorado numbering in the thousands. His ten years of military service with the Florida Army National Guard included Operation Enduring Freedom in 2001 and coordinating emergency operations at the Florida National Guard Joint Force Headquarters for the 2006 Bugaboo fires and multiple hurricanes to including Katrina, Rita, and Wilma in 2005. Currently serving as Director of Project Management Office & Operations at G& H International, Hal continues to advance emergency management capabilities through technology integration and strategic program development. He holds multiple certifications including CO-CEM, MEP, and PMP.

Rethinking Emergency Management: Insights from Brock Long

Join former FEMA Administrator Brock Long for a thought-provoking discussion on the future of emergency management and how we often focus on the wrong priorities in preparedness and response. Drawing from his extensive experience, Long will challenge conventional approaches, emphasizing the need for local resilience, pre-disaster mitigation, and smarter recovery strategies. Attendees will gain valuable insights into reducing dependence on federal aid, improving disaster planning, and fostering stronger, more prepared communities.

Brock Long, Executive Chairman – Hagerty Consulting is the former Administrator of FEMA and a 25-year veteran of emergency management and homeland security. Most recently he led the nation through the worst series of disasters ever experienced including hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria, Florence, Michael, Yutu, and the devastating California wildfires of 2017/18.

Brock is a proven transformational leader and organizational change agent with management experience in both the public and private sector. His Congressional testimonies, coupled with his thought leadership efforts to develop FEMA's current Strategic Plan, led to a national focus upon pre-disaster mitigation, creating a true

culture of preparedness, and transformational legislative changes that enhanced the field of emergency management.

Heat Hazards in North Carolina

Most local governments have plans for when a hurricane or ice storm is coming, but they don't have a plan for heat waves. Yet, recent analysis shows that more people died of heat related illness in the United States last year than any year on record. Even though extreme heat is not new to North Carolina, the frequency and severity of extreme heat is increasing. Our emergency rooms are seeing many people for heat related illnesses, and those illnesses are preventable. State agencies and partners are developing resources to support local engagement on this issue. This presentation will demonstrate these resources and discuss how they support heat preparedness and response.

Nicole Goddard, Resilience Outreach and Engagement Partner – NC Office of Recovery and Resiliency *has 16 years of experience in facilitation, community engagement and program planning, including six years working in local government in North Carolina. Nicole specializes in climate resilience and climate equity work and helping organizations integrate tools and processes to improve service delivery and preserve communities. Her work at NCORR involves helping local governments across the state access and apply tools to integrate resilience into their operations and services. She has a BA from the University of Southern California and an MSc in Environmental Policy and Regulation from the London School of Economics and Political Science.*

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| Lunch Provided 12:30-1:30 |
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North Carolina Division of Emergency Management Branch Meetings will be held during lunch.

Western Branch Room 111/112/113 - Central Branch Room 105/106 - Eastern Branch Room 107/108.
Conference participants not attending a Branch meeting can eat lunch in Room 109/110

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| Breakout Sessions 1:30-2:15 |
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It's a Different, Different World

This hands-on exercise will give participants a "taste" of the communication challenges that people who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or are DeafBlind experience daily. Participants will rotate through different stations that simulate emergency situations and figure out how to navigate the scenarios. After the exercise and debriefing, emergency responders will strengthen skills and awareness in effective communication tools with individuals who have hearing loss.

Donna Platt, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator – NC Div of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Kay Smith, Community Accessibility Specialist – NC Div of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Jessica Register, Community Accessibility Specialist – NC Div of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Herbie Aguilar, Community Accessibility Specialist – NC Div of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Stephen Drabicki, Community Accessibility Specialist – NC Div of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Martina Moore-Reid, Community Accessibility Specialist – NC Div of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Merri Schermerhorn, Community Accessibility Specialist – NC Div of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Leveraging Technology in Crisis

Emergency Management leaders from Henderson, Haywood, and McDowell Counties come together to discuss the various technologies they utilized during Hurricane Helene. This session will highlight the critical tools and innovations that supported response efforts, improved communication, and enhanced coordination across agencies. Attendees will gain insights into real-world applications of technology in disaster management and explore best practices for future emergency response strategies.

Jimmy Brissie, Public Safety Director – Henderson County

Zack Koonce IV, Emergency Management Officer – Haywood County

William Kehler, Emergency Services Director – McDowell County

Victoria Cortes, Emergency Management Planner – Henderson County

Emergency Response to Alternative Fuels

Alternative fuels are becoming more prominent hazards that we face on a daily basis. The two big ones that are presenting challenges in the fire service are compressed Natural Gas and Lithium-Ion Batteries.

Bryan Vickery, Assistant Chief – Greensboro Fire Department

Stress, Moral Injury, and the Path to Restoring Well-being and Effectiveness

The impact of stress is significant and common among individual in high pressure work environments. Both stress and moral injury can negatively impact motivation, focus, effectiveness and overall mental health. We will explore the causes and symptoms of stress injuries and provide interventions to reduce the impact and restore resiliency.

Laura Hummel, Licensed Mental Health Professional – Responder Assistance Initiative

Stephanie Mendelson, Licensed Mental Health Professional – Responder Assistance Initiative

Historic Resilience

North Carolina is rich in historic and cultural resources . . . and North Carolina faces dramatic challenges and hazards. Too often, those facts collide — cultural resources are threatened by floodwaters, storms, and winds. The Historic Resilience Project seeks to equip local communities to address the natural threats to historic and cultural resources. This session will provide an introduction to the topic and highlight new resources for communities.

Adam Lovelady, Professor – UNC School of Government

Civil Demonstrations: Lessons Learned

A panel discussion of lesson learned from UNC Charlotte and Chapel Hill.

Tiffani Bowser Bowen, Training and Exercise Coordinator – UNC Charlotte

Kyle Lanasa, Operations Coordinator – UNC Charlotte

Ryan Lambert, Emergency Management Specialist – UNC Charlotte

Michael Lindia, Emergency Management Planner – UNC Chapel Hill

Crystal Donaldson, Continuity and Resiliency Planner – UNC Chapel Hill

ESF 11 Planning

Join us for an engaging and interactive discussion on how to incorporate Emergency Support Function 11 (ESF 11) into your County Emergency Operations Plan and how to implement it at the county level. We will also share lessons learned from the response to Hurricane Helene.

Ben Barnham, Mountain Emergency Programs Specialist – NC Dept of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Jay Strider, Western Emergency Programs Specialist – NC Dept of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Leading and Managing People in Steady State and Response: Lessons Learned the Hard Way

As we move up in the Emergency Management Profession, training offered is mostly technical, not targeted to developing as a leader and manager of people. This session will provide an opportunity for those newer to managing and leading staff to benefit from the experience of two managers/leaders with over 20 years of hard-won lessons learned in the role. Our intent is to leave time for questions and a good discussion amongst attendees.

Gary Scronce, Sr. Director, Homeland Security and Emergency Management – IEM International

Joshua Creighton, Emergency Management Director – Wake County Emergency Management

Mass Feeding Task Force

This session will allow Emergency Managers and other attendees to understand what the Mass Feeding Task Force is and how the task force functions to provide mass feeding to areas of NC affected by natural and human made disasters.

Tom Beam, Disaster Response Director – Baptists on Mission

Rebecca Pittman, Regional Disaster Office – American Red Cross

Mike Patterson, Divisional Director Disaster Services – Salvation Army

Thomas Parrot, Human Services Branch Planner – North Carolina Emergency Management

Beyond Words: Expanding Communication Equity Access

Hurricane Helene proved to be a traumatic experience for everyone in Western North Carolina. However, people who are Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing faced double traumatic due to lack of communication access to information and services/programs which were audible. Examples of scenarios as well as solutions will be shown.

Donna Platt, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator – NC Div of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Tuesday Afternoon Meeting – 3:30 p.m.

North Carolina Emergency Management Association – General Membership Meeting Rooms 111/112/113

Attendance is limited to members of the North Carolina Emergency Management Association.

Tuesday Evening

Social Time for Networking: 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the area outside Rooms 101/102. The Semi Finals and Finals of the Cornhole Tournament will also take place.

Banquet: 7:00 p.m. Rooms 101/102/114 combined. Enjoy a great meal and socialize with fellow conference attendees. After dinner, music will be provided by Johnny B's Beach and Boogie.

Wednesday March 26th

EBCI Field Trip

Join the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Emergency Management Coordinator for a tour of the state-of-the-art EBCI School!

NWS Tabletop Exercise

This tabletop exercise will provide an overview of the products and services available from the National Weather Service local forecast offices before, during, and after severe storms, including tornadoes. After the product review, a tornado outbreak tabletop exercise will be conducted that will utilize these products and services.

Nick Petro, Warning Coordination Meteorologist – NWS Raleigh

Erik Seymour, Warning Coordination Meteorologist – NWS Wakefield

Erik Heden, Warning Coordination Meteorologist – NWS Newport/Morehead City

Breakout Sessions

Operation Mountain Hope: A New Red Cross Approach

Hurricane Helene's impacts in Western North Carolina, and many of the decisions made in the immediate aftermath, opened the door to adapt key strategies and approaches to service delivery during catastrophic events for the American Red Cross. From there, Operation Mountain Hope was born. Operation Mountain Hope was a three-prong initiative to ensure the American Red Cross understood what areas were most impacted, that they were able to rapidly meet community level needs, provide life sustaining shelter in place resources, and leverage existing community networks to share information. This effort included a first of its kind distribution

effort that brought much needed supplies to heavily impacted communities, while ensuring standard services were still delivered across the full impact area.

Rebecca Pittman, Regional Disaster Office – American Red Cross

Practical Application of AI for EM

AI is everywhere right now, but how can you put it to good use in emergency management? Are you already using it and now aren't sure if that was a good idea? Come learn about how you might be able to improve your effectiveness by using AI, while also taking care to safeguard people and their data.

Dr. Sarah Miller, Assistant Professor – Pierce College

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| NCEM Training Courses |
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Please refer to NC TERMS for more details and to register for the NCEM Courses.

- Introduction to WebEOC: 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
- SARTopo: 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Thursday March 27th
- HSEEP: 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Wednesday, 8:00a.m.-5:00 p.m. Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Friday

North Carolina Training and Standards Advisory Board Meeting: Will be held at 1:00pm in the Boardroom.

Breakout Sessions Speaker Bios

The QR Code below can be used to access the bios for the Breakout Session Speakers. Thank you so much to our speakers for contributing so much to our conference!



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Spring 2025 NCEMA Conference Vendors

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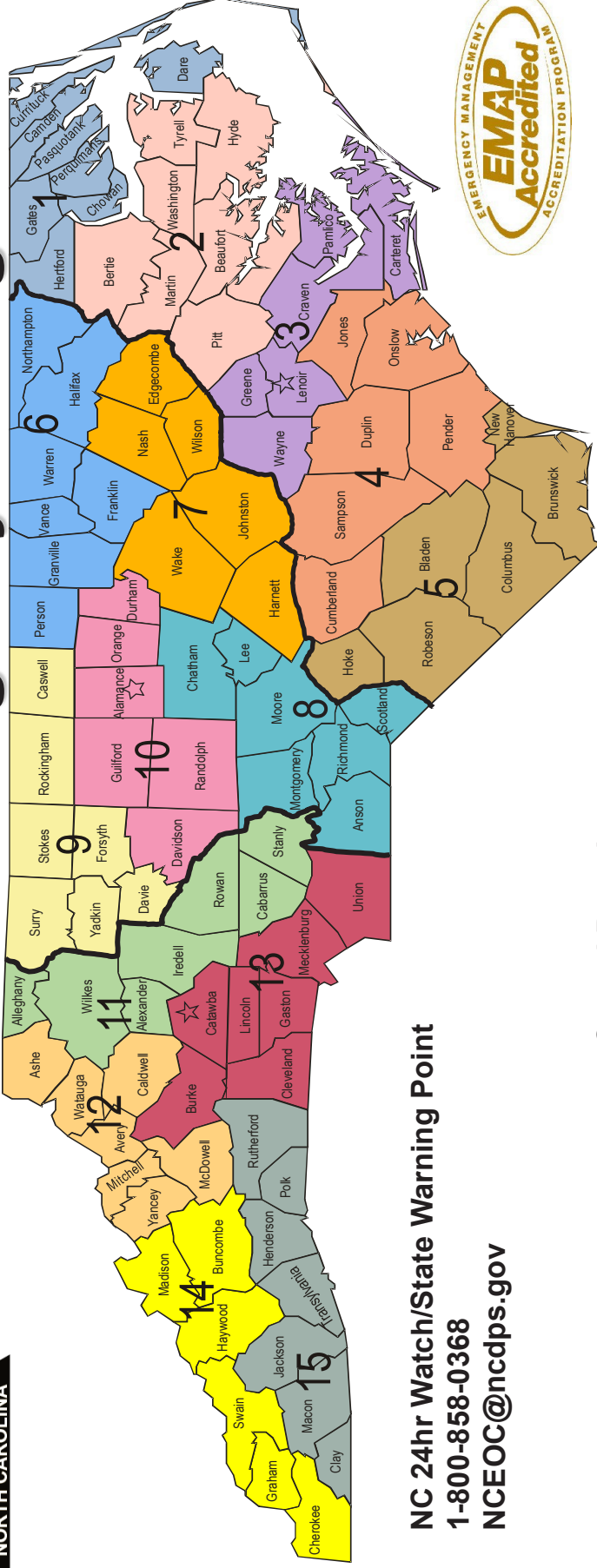
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**A BIG Thank You to the
NCEMA Program Committee Members
who made the Conference Possible!**

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|--|---------------------------------------|
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NCEMA 2025 Spring Conference Survey



Your feedback is important! Please utilize the QR Code above to provide feedback on your experience at the 2025 Spring Conference. If you would prefer to fill out a paper survey, they are located at the Registration desk.

See you in Fall 2025!