

Idaho Office of Emergency Management

Annual Preparedness and Cybersecurity Conference

Water Wise: Strategies for Emergency Management

Day 1 - Monday, December 2

- 11:00 Registration opens
- 1:30 Conference Welcome
- Brad Richy – Director, Idaho Office of Emergency Management
- 1:35 Opening Remarks
- Timothy Donnellan – The Adjutant General, Idaho Military Division
- 1:45 General Session: Idaho Election Security Group 2024 Election Summary
- Cody McRoberts – Chief Information Officer, Idaho Secretary of State
 - Overview of the planning, preparation, collaboration, and monitoring efforts of the Idaho Election Security Group in support of the 2024 General Election. We will also share insights, lessons learned, and recommendations for supporting future elections.
- 2:25 General Session – Introduction to the Idaho Criminal Intelligence Center
- Sergeant Troy DeBie – Deputy Director of the Idaho Criminal Intelligence Center, Idaho State Police
 - An overview of how the Idaho Criminal Intelligence Center functions and what role it plays in Idaho’s efforts to combat terrorism and criminal activity through an all-crimes approach
- 3:00 Networking Break
- 3:15 General Session – Rain, Snow, Ice, Floods... Maybe. A Winter Outlook and New Tools to Weather the Season
- Jay Breidenbach – Warning Coordination Meteorologist, NOAA National Weather Service
 - Troy Lindquist – Hydrologist, NOAA National Weather Service
 - Learn how local National Weather Service offices serving Idaho will be evolving to work in close partnership with emergency managers and new tools available for use. Hear about new initiatives the National Weather Service is working on at the National Level with FEMA and state Offices of Emergency Management around the country. And of course... the latest information on our winter outlook!

- 4:00 General Session: Emergency Management Assistance Compacts (EMAC) – How Can Your Jurisdiction Help in Times of Disaster
- Matt McCarter – Grants and Finance Branch Chief, IOEM
 - Christina Lazar – Emergency Planner, IOEM
 - Bryce de Vries – Logistics Section Chief, IOEM
 - Emma Iannacone – Public Information Officer, Bannock County
 - Eric Grossarth – Public Information Officer, Idaho Falls
 - Karen Trumbull – Bannock County Emergency Management
 - Parker Williams, MS – Emergency Manager and Injury Prevention, Greater Idaho Healthcare Coalition, Portneuf Medical Center
 - Over the years, EMAC has been a cornerstone of mutual aid, allowing states to support one another when disaster strikes. This session provides an overview of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) process and purpose. It will also focus on the steps involved in developing Mission Ready Packages (MRPs). Attendees will learn how to streamline resource deployment through MRPs, ensuring timely and efficient mutual aid during emergencies.
- This session also focuses on the firsthand experiences of locals who deployed to North Carolina during a recent hurricane response. The panel aims to explore best practices, challenges, and lessons learned, providing attendees with actionable insights to confidently utilize EMAC and maximize its benefits for streamlined emergency response.

4:45 End of day

Day 2 - Tuesday, December 3 - Cybersecurity Day

- 7:30 Registration Opens
- 7:45 Breakfast Buffet Opens
- 8:30 Welcome
- Brad Richy – Director, Idaho Office of Emergency Management
- 8:40 Room Introductions
- 9:10 Remarks by Timothy Donnellan - The Adjutant General, Idaho National Guard
- 9:15 Remarks by Governor Brad Little
- 9:30 Remarks by Alberto Gonzales – Administrator, Office of Information Technology
- 9:40 Keynote Address: Cybersecurity Preparedness: An IT and EM Partnership

- Alex Winkler – Chief Information Officer, City of Boise Department of Information Technology
- In today's rapidly evolving threat landscape, organizations must be prepared to respond swiftly and effectively to cyber incidents. This session will focus on building stronger, more resilient incident response frameworks, improving coordination between teams, and reducing downtime and damage during cyber incidents.

10:20 Networking Break

10:35 Keynote Address – Implications of Nation State Threats on Emergency Management and Homeland Security

- Glen Woodbury - Former Director of Center of Homeland Defense and Security, Naval Postgraduate School
- This session explores the evolving landscape of foreign threats, including cyberattacks, disinformation campaigns, and military posturing by nation-states such as China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea. Participants will examine the cascading and intersecting impacts of these threats on emergency management and homeland security operations, public trust, and critical infrastructure. Through a focus on real-world examples and actionable strategies, the session highlights how emergency managers can begin to assess and adapt to these complex, multi-faceted challenges and strengthen resilience through informed planning and collaboration.

12:00 Lunch Buffet

1:15 Keynote Address – Erik Hooks – Deputy Administrator, FEMA

2:00 General Session – Making Sense of Today's Cyber Threat Landscape

- Will Hussman – Cyber Threat Intelligence, IBM: Office of the CISO

2:45 Networking Break - Move to Breakout Sessions

3:00 Breakout Sessions – 50 minutes sessions. (Please return to ballroom by 4:00)

- Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)
 - Meet in Ponderosa Ballroom
- Open-Sourcing Network Visibility
 - Melanie Pierce – Cybersecurity Researcher, Idaho National Laboratory
 - For organizations with limited budgets, Idaho National Laboratory, in collaboration with U.S. government agencies, has developed and released several open-source tools designed to enhance your organization's network visibility and bolster your cybersecurity posture.
 - Meet in Juniper/Laurel Ballroom

- HazMat – A snapshot of Training, Reporting and Cost Recovery
 - Sarah Cerda – Hazmat/Special Teams Program Manager, IOEM
 - Yolandi Faulker – Hazmat Regulatory/Compliance Specialist, IOEM
 - A discussion on training available, reporting requirements and cost recovery
 - Meet in Tamarack Ballroom
- 4:00 General Session – Artificial intelligence in Cybersecurity
- Dr. Neal Bangerter - Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Boise State University
- 4:45 Networking Social

Day 3 - Wednesday, December 4

- 7:30 Registration Opens
- 7:45 Breakfast Buffet Opens
- 8:30 Opening Remarks
- 8:40 Remarks by Willie Nunn – Administrator, FEMA Region 10
- 8:50 Keynote Address – A Fireside Chat
- Brock Long – Former FEMA Administrator and Executive Chairman, Hagerty Consulting
- 10:15 Networking Break
- 10:30 General Session – Voluntary Organizations Active in a Disaster – Who We Are; How We Can Help
- Idaho Foodbank, LINC Idaho, Mennonite Disaster Service, Northwest Intermountain Synod of the ELCA, Red Cross of Idaho, Salvation Army
 - Be sure to visit our VOAD partners out at the VOAD Fair in the lobby.
- 10:40 General Session - Speed Networking – Meet the IOEM Team
- Meet the IOEM Team as they move from table to table. This is your opportunity to engage with Team members to learn about IOEM programs, grants, and projects. Be sure to ask any questions you may have about IOEM and how we can best help your jurisdiction.
- 11:30 Breakout Sessions - 45-minute sessions. (Please return to ballroom by 12:15 for lunch)

- Dam Safety and Emergency Preparedness: Proactive Measures for Risk Mitigation
 - Kori Felix – Renewable Resources Emergency Manager, PacifiCorp
 - Brett Myers – Emergency Manager, Rocky Mountain Power
 - The safety of dams is vital for protecting communities, infrastructure, and the environment from the catastrophic consequences of dam failure. This session will focus on the critical elements of dam safety and the strategies necessary for effective emergency preparedness and public safety coordination.
 - Meet in Juniper/Laurel Ballroom
- Individual Assistance – The Nuts and Bolts of FEMA IA
 - Casey Sturgill, Senior Emergency Management Specialist, FEMA Region 10
 - Eve Salstrom – Emergency Management Specialist, FEMA Region 10
 - Meet in Ponderosa Ballroom
- Idaho Resilience Tool (IRT)
 - Dr. Brittany Brand - Ph.D., Boise State University, Department of Geosciences, &
 - Zachary Provant - Postdoctoral Research Fellow for the Hazard and Climate Resilience Institute, Boise State University As part of the FEMA CTP RiskMAP program, Boise State's Hazard and Climate Resilience Institute is creating the "Idaho Resilience Tool" (IRT). The IRT will map health disparities and hazard risks using Idaho-specific datasets. We will co-develop the tool in collaboration with state agencies, emergency managers, nonprofits, community partners, and the Idaho Geospatial Office. The IRT will also produce output reports for local decision makers to smoothly integrate into future hazard mitigation plans and grant applications.

In this session, we will facilitate a discussion about the data challenges facing emergency management professionals in Idaho. Which datasets can we include in the IRT to help you provide more effective hazard mitigation? Are there diverging data needs based on geography, urban vs rural, and Hazard Mitigation Plan requirements? How are you implementing FEMA-mandated climate and social vulnerability into your hazard mitigation plans?

These discussions are integral to the development of the IRT--but more broadly, the session functions as a space for participants to connect with and learn from emergency management experts around the state. At the end of the session, you will be invited to participate in next steps for the Idaho Resilience Tool.

- Meet in Tamarack Ballroom

12:15 Lunch Buffet Opens

1:00 Keynote Address: Port Security, the US Coast Guard and Coordinated Response Operations

- Meredith Austin – RADM, USCG (Ret.), CEM, Mer Crisis Advisors, LLC
- This session will explore the U.S. Maritime Environment and Transportation System, with a focus on Idaho’s waterways and seaport, delving into the historical evolution of port security laws and activities. Attendees will gain insights into collaborative port security efforts, coordinated recovery operations, and actionable lessons to enhance preparedness in safeguarding critical maritime infrastructure.

1:45 General Session - Speed Networking – Meet the IOEM Team

- Meet the IOEM Team as they move from table to table. This is your opportunity to engage with Team members to learn about IOEM programs, grants, and projects. Be sure to ask any questions you may have about IOEM and how we can best help your jurisdiction.

2:45 Networking Break – Move to Breakout Sessions

3:00 Breakout Sessions – 50-minute sessions. (Please return to ballroom by 4:00)

- Emergency Management Assistance Compacts (EMAC)
 - Matt McCarter – Grants and Finance Branch Chief, IOEM
 - Darin Letzring – Area Field Officer, IOEM
 - Yolandi Faulkner – Hazmat Regulatory/Compliance Specialist, IOEM
 - Christina Lazar – Emergency Planner, IOEM
 - Bryce de Vries – Logistics Manager, IOEM
 - IOEM team members will review the detailed processes for local jurisdiction staff to be notified of opportunities for EMAC deployments, completing pre-event documents and post-event reimbursements, and review the little details that go into an EMAC deployment.
 - Meet in Juniper/Laurel Ballroom
- The Idaho Map is Finally Here
 - Wilma Robertson - Geographic Information Officer & Data Analytics Manager, Office of Information Technology Services
 - The Idaho Map (TIM) is Idaho’s Spatial Data Infrastructure. For almost 30 years in the making, we are releasing it for the public for the first time – bringing together authoritative spatial datasets for a variety of topics in Idaho. TIM is still a work in progress, so find out what is already done, what is next and how you can help.
 - Meet in Ponderosa Ballroom

- Floodplain Strategies in an Evolving Environment
 - Peter Jackson – State Floodplain Manager/NFIP Coordinator, Idaho Department of Water Resources
 - Meet in Tamarack Ballroom

4:00 General Session – Boots on the Ground

- Michael Macans, Region 10 Recovery Coordinator, U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)
- Misty Beals, Idaho State Resource Conservationist, NRCS
- Nicholas Treasure, Deputy State Executive Director – Idaho Office, Farm Service Agency
- This session will examine the disaster resources SBA can provide. We'll look at the new regional recovery coordinator role, disaster loans, and different types of declaration.

The Farm Service Agency has established emergency preparedness and response teams at the National and State level in response to modern day emergency response activities and requirements and to minimize the disruption to the agriculture communities in the event of a catastrophic incident. These teams will be responsible for FSA's response to the event and follow specific guidelines that will allow for:

- clear and concise communication flow,
- standardized reporting and response procedures, and
- defined employee roles and responsibilities.

4:45 Networking Social

Day 4 – Thursday, December 5

8:00 Registration Opens

8:00 Morning Refreshments

8:45 Opening Remarks

8:50 General Session – Emergency Management Partners from the Local, State and Federal Level: Coordination, Collaboration and Communication

- Scott Zaffram – Director, National Preparedness Division, FEMA Region 10
- Brad Richy – Director, Idaho Office of Emergency Management
- Chris Corwin – Emergency Manager, Blaine County
- Panel discussion with leaders on effective and efficient communications and coordination between all levels of emergency management response and recovery efforts.

- 9:45 Networking Break – Move to Breakout Sessions
- 10:00 Breakout Sessions – 50-minute sessions. (Please return to ballroom by 11:00.)
- Individual Assistance – The Nuts and Bolts of FEMA IA
 - Casey Sturgill, Senior Emergency Management Specialist, FEMA Region 10
 - Eve Salstrom – Emergency Management Specialist, FEMA Region 10
 - Meet in Ponderosa Ballroom
 - Leading in a Crisis
 - Meredith Austin - RADM, USCG (Ret.), CEM, Mer Crisis Advisors, LLC
 - This presentation discusses what leaders will face when responding to a crisis and how to keep calm and stay above the fray. Effective strategies will be presented to increase trust and reduce outrage in the community.
 - Meet in Juniper/Laurel Ballroom
 - Whitewater Park Field Trip
 - James Pardy - Public Works, City Engineers Senior Manager, City of Boise
 - Esther Simplot Park is an expansive 55-acre site encompassing approximately 23 acres of ponds. Much of the park was built within the natural floodplain of the Boise River, allowing it to serve as a buffer during high flows. This strategic design enables the park to accommodate overflow without causing damage to park infrastructure or surrounding properties. The walking tour will focus on the park area located next to the conference center and highlight some of the features installed to help mitigate flooding during high flow events.
 - Please meet in the lobby near the Aspen Room.
- 11:00 General Session – State of Idaho Quagga Mussel Response
- Lloyd Knight – Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Agriculture
- 12:00 Closing Remarks