

# Florida Emergency Preparedness Conference

January 25-30, 2026

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# All Hazards; All Voices



# Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa - Hotel Map





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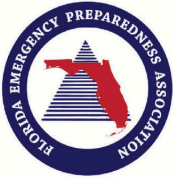




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# President's Welcome Message

Jonathan Lord, FPEM, President



## Welcome to the 2026 Florida Emergency Preparedness Conference!

On behalf of the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association, I am honored to welcome you to this year's conference, themed "2026: All Hazards; All Voices." This theme reflects our shared commitment to embracing every perspective, every discipline, and every community as we prepare for the full spectrum of challenges that Florida faces.

Emergency management is not a solo effort—it is a chorus of voices working together to protect lives and strengthen resilience. This week, we unite to learn, collaborate, and innovate. From hurricanes to wildfires, cyber threats to public health crises, our mission demands that we think broadly, act boldly, and include everyone in the conversation.

What's Ahead?

Over the next few days, you'll experience a dynamic

mix of training opportunities, thought-provoking general sessions, and interactive workshops designed to strengthen our capabilities and foster collaboration. You'll also have time to network with peers, celebrate achievements, and explore emerging technologies and best practices that will shape the future of emergency management in Florida.

Your presence here demonstrates your dedication to safeguarding Florida's communities. I encourage you to immerse yourself in the sessions, share your expertise, and amplify your voice—because together, we are stronger, smarter, and ready for all hazards.

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." – Helen Keller

Thank you for being part of this vital work. Let's make this conference a catalyst for progress and collaboration.

*Jonathan Lord, FPEM*

President, Florida Emergency Preparedness Association

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# 2026 Florida Emergency Preparedness Conference Training

## Agenda

### Sunday, January 25th, 2026

7:30am – 8:00am	Coffee Break	Emerald Foyer
8:00am – 5:00pm	<b>L-105 Public Information Basics</b>	Emerald A
	<b>G-2302 EOC Leaders Skillset</b>	Emerald B
10:00am – 10:30am	Morning Break	Emerald Foyer
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Lunch On Your Own	
3:00pm – 3:30pm	Afternoon Break	Emerald Foyer

### Monday, January 26, 2026

7:30am – 8:00am	Coffee Break	Emerald Foyer
8:00am – 5:00pm	<b>L-105 Public Information Basics</b>	Emerald A
	<b>G-2302 EOC Leaders Skillset</b>	Emerald B
	<b>L-1301 Continuity Planning</b>	Emerald C
	<b>G-489 Management of Spontaneous Volunteers in Disasters</b>	Emerald E
8:00am – 12:00pm	<b>FL-603(f) Public Assistance 101 &amp; Grants Management</b>	Emerald D
10:00am – 10:30am	Morning Break	Emerald Foyer
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Lunch On Your Own	
1:00pm – 5:00pm	<b>FL-FROC 655: FEMA PA Cost Estimation</b>	Emerald D
3:00pm – 3:30pm	Afternoon Break	Emerald Foyer
5:00pm – 6:00pm	FEPA Certification Commission Meeting	Emerald C

### Tuesday, January 27, 2026

7:30am – 8:00am	Coffee Break	Emerald Foyer
8:00am – 5:00pm	<b>L-105 Public Information Basics</b>	Emerald A
	<b>G-2302 EOC Leaders Skillset</b>	Emerald B
	<b>L-1301 Continuity Planning</b>	Emerald C
8:00am – 12:00pm	<b>FL-680: Individual Assistance - The Local Role</b>	Emerald D
	<b>Introduction to Florida Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP)</b>	Emerald E
10:00am – 10:30am	Morning Break	Vendor Exhibit Area
10:30am – 12:00pm	FEPA Board of Directors Meeting	Coral A
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Lunch On Your Own	
1:00pm – 5:00pm	<b>Taking F-ROC to the Next Level</b>	Emerald D
	<b>Tabletop Exercise</b>	Emerald E
1:00pm – 4:00pm	FLVOAD Winter Quarterly Meeting	Coral A
3:00pm – 3:30pm	Afternoon Break	Emerald Foyer
5:00pm – 6:00pm	FEPA 101 New Member Orientation	Coral A

### Wednesday, January 28, 2026

8:30am – 9:00am	<b>OPENING SESSION AND WELCOME</b>	Emerald C,D,E
9:00am – 10:00am	<b>General Session - Airbnb.org Disaster Housing Program</b>	Emerald C,D,E
10:00am – 10:30am	Morning Break	Emerald Foyer
10:30am – 5:00pm	<b>Leveraging GIS to Enhance Emergency Management Operations and Decision-Making - An Interactive Roundtable Discussion</b>	Emerald A
10:30am – 12:00pm	<b>Large Language Models and You: Demystifying the Future</b>	Emerald B
	<b>Come Together: Building Community Resilience Through Collaboration</b>	Emerald C
	<b>Leading and Managing People in</b>	

	<b>Blue Skies and Grey Skies</b>	Emerald D
	<b>Reaching the Masses: Building an Emergency Alert Program that Engages the Whole Community</b>	Emerald E
12:00pm – 1:30pm	Lunch On Your Own	
1:30pm – 3:00pm	<b>The Long Game: Understanding Long-Range Forecasts for Emergency Management</b>	Emerald B
	<b>Community-Led Disaster Recovery that Leads to Resilience</b>	Emerald C
	<b>Beyond the Headlines: Developing Analytical Skills for Emergency Management Decision-Making</b>	Emerald D
	<b>Preparedness for All: Engaging Seniors &amp; Under-served Families in Disaster Readiness</b>	Emerald E
3:00pm – 3:30pm	Afternoon Break	Emerald Foyer
3:30pm – 5:00pm	<b>HSEEP-ish: Designing Exercises That Work</b>	Emerald B
	<b>Harnessing Donated Resources</b>	Emerald C
	<b>Working Effectively with Elected Officials</b>	Emerald D
	<b>Communicating with At-Risk Populations During Emergencies</b>	Emerald E
5:30pm – 6:30pm	<b>FEPA President's Reception</b>	Emerald Foyer

### Thursday, January 29, 2026

8:30am – 10:00am	<b>General Session - A Bird's Eye View: Supporting Disaster Response with NASA's Open Satellite Data</b>	Emerald C,D,E
10:00am – 10:30am	Break	Emerald Foyer
10:30am – 12:00pm	<b>FEPA Awards Ceremony</b>	Emerald C,D,E
12:00pm – 1:30pm	Lunch On Your Own	
1:30pm – 3:00pm	<b>When Data Talks: GIS + PIO for Clear, Crisis-Ready Communication</b>	Emerald A
	<b>"All Hazards, Smart Choices: Strategic Contracting for Best Results"</b>	Emerald B
	<b>Innovation in Disaster Case Management: Florida's Combined Helene and Milton Program</b>	Emerald C
	<b>FEPA Certification: The Why &amp; How</b>	Emerald D
	<b>FEPA: Training Path Forward</b>	Emerald E
3:00pm – 3:30pm	Afternoon Break	Emerald Foyer
3:30pm – 5:00pm	<b>Best Practices to Maximize PA 1206 Funding and Meet SB 180 Requirements for Permitting, Substantial Damage Assessments, &amp; Code Enforcement</b>	Emerald A
	<b>Introductions - The Most Important Part of Delivering a Course</b>	Emerald B
	<b>Snowmageddon 2025 - That really was snow in Florida</b>	Emerald C
	<b>FEPA: The Road Ahead</b>	Emerald D

### Friday, January 30, 2026

7:30am – 9:00am	Breakfast	Emerald D,E
9:00am – 10:30am	<b>FEPA Business Meeting and Closing Session</b>	Emerald D,E



**Sunday, January 25, 2026**

**8:00 am – 5:00 pm – Training Sessions**

Pre-registration is required for Training Sessions; Walk-ins accepted on a space available basis

**Emerald A**

**L-105 Public Information Basics - Day 1 of 3**

To equip participants with the skills needed to be full or part-time PIOs, including oral and written communications; understanding and working with the media; and basic tools and techniques to perform effectively as a PIO, both in the proactive/ advocacy times and crisis/emergency response.

**Prerequisites:**

FEMA IS-29a Public Information Officer Basics

**FEPA Certification Hours:**

22 hours towards either the Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, or Recovery Mission Area

**Instructors:**

Mike Jachles, EPIO - Riviera Beach Police Department

**Emerald B**

**G-2302 EOC Leaders Skillset - Day 1 of 3**

This is a three-day course with the purpose of providing the participants practice around the EOC Skillsets with experiences on how to activate and run an effective and efficient EOC. This will enable EOC leaders to understand the importance of multiple EOC positions and responsibilities, gathering and analyzing data, maintaining continuity of the organization, and delivering information to the appropriate agencies and individuals, as well as the confidence in making decisions to protect life and property.

**Prerequisites:**

FEMA IS-2200: Basic Emergency Operations Center Functions

**FEPA Certification Hours:**

22 hours towards the Response Mission Area

**Instructors:**

Alex MacKinnon, FPEM, FMI - Leon County Emergency Management

Catie Feeney, FAEM - Walton County Emergency Management

Chris Eliadis, FPEM, FMI - Brevard County Emergency Management

**2:00 pm – 5:00 pm – Registration**

Emerald Registration Booth  
FEPC Participant Registration



The advertisement for WebEOC NEXUS features a dark background with a person wearing a headset working at a computer. The text "WebEOC NEXUS" is prominently displayed in white. A QR code is in the top right corner. Below the main title, it says "Configurable workflows that enhance emergency management, daily operations, and interagency coordination – built by EM pros, for EM pros." At the bottom, there are two boxes: "JUVARE EXCHANGE" with the text "Secure data exchange platform that lets public agencies at all levels share WebEOC data and workflows for a coordinated response." and "ALERTS for WebEOC" with the text "Multi-channel alerts &amp; notifications that can be sent manually or automated based on WebEOC workflows, helping your team act fast and stay ahead."



# Monday, January 26, 2026

## Break Schedule:

Emerald Ballroom Foyer  
7:30 am – 8:00 am Coffee Break  
10:00 am – 10:15 am – Mid-Morning Break  
Noon – 1:00 pm – Lunch on Your Own  
3:00 pm – 3:15 pm – Afternoon Break

## 7:30 am – 5:00 pm – Registration

Emerald Registration Booth  
FEPC Participant Registration

## 8:00 am – 5:00 pm – Training Sessions

Pre-registration is required for Training Sessions;  
Walk-ins accepted on a space available basis

### Emerald A

#### L-105 Public Information Basics – Day 2 of 3

### Emerald B

#### G-2302 EOC Leaders Skillset – Day 2 of 3

### Emerald C

#### G1301 Continuity Planning – Day 1 of 2

The goal of this course is to help continuity practitioners understand continuity roles and responsibilities, and provide the knowledge sets, skills, and tools necessary to help develop and maintain a viable continuity plan for their organization and community. FEMA is the prerequisite for this training.

## Prerequisites:

FEMA IS-1300a Introduction to Continuity

## FEPA Certification Hours:

14 hours towards the Mitigation Mission Area

## Instructors:

Roberto M'Causland, FPEM – Palm Beach County Fire Rescue  
Genevive M'Causland, FPEM – Broward County Emergency Management  
Jeff Goldberg, FPEM, FMI – Walton County Emergency Management

### Emerald E

#### G-489 Management of Spontaneous Volunteers in Disasters – Day 1 of 1

This course introduces the skills and planning considerations required to manage large numbers of people who are not affiliated with an experienced relief organization, but who want to help in disasters. These helpers or “spontaneous volunteers” are generally well motivated and sincerely want to help, but if their efforts and resources are not coordinated effectively, they could be counterproductive, wasteful, and often place a strain on the disaster area.

**Prerequisites:** None

## FEPA Certification Hours:

8 hours towards the Response Mission Area

## Instructors:

Christy Rojas, FPEM - Volunteer Florida Emergency Management

## 8:00 am – Noon – Training Sessions

### Emerald D

#### FL603(f) Public Assistance 101 & Grants Management

Designed for local officials and staff responsible for project management within FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Grants Program, this course equips participants with the essential knowledge and skills to navigate PA and grants management effectively. Through an in-depth exploration of the F-ROC program, participants will learn how to apply its methodologies to optimize and enhance their project management efforts. Note: This course is part of the Public Assistance Course Series (PACS). To earn the PACS Certificate, you must complete FL-603(f), 608(f), and 609(f) courses. Once you have attended and received your certificate for all three courses, please email [FDEM-RecoveryTraining@em.myflorida.com](mailto:FDEM-RecoveryTraining@em.myflorida.com) to request your transcript be reviewed for a PACS Certificate.

**Prerequisites:** None



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**Tuesday, January 27, 2026**

**FEPA Certification Hours:**

4 hours towards the Recovery Mission Area

**Instructors:**

Recovery Bureau Staff – Florida Division of Emergency Management

**1:00 pm – 5:00 pm – Training Sessions**

**Emerald D**

**FL-FROC 655: FEMA PA Cost Estimation**

This workshop helps FEMA Public Assistance applicants understand key cost estimation methods used in disaster recovery. Participants will learn techniques for Initial Damage Assessments (IDAs), Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments (JPDAs), and project development. Topics include FEMA Cost Codes and estimation tools for supporting IDAs, refining damages in JPDAs, and finalizing project costs. Emphasis is placed on early cost data tracking to speed up transitions. The workshop includes hands-on scenarios and an introduction to FEMA's Cost Estimating Format (CEF) methodology.

**Prerequisites:** None

**FEPA Certification Hours:**

4 hours towards the Recovery Mission Area

**Instructors:**

Recovery Bureau Staff – Florida Division of Emergency Management

**Emerald C**

**5:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

**FEPA Certification Commission Meeting**

**Break Schedule:**

Emerald Ballroom Foyer

7:30 am – 8:00 am Coffee Break

10:00 am – 10:15 am – Mid-Morning Break

Noon – 1:00 pm – Lunch on Your Own

3:00 pm – 3:15 pm – Afternoon Break

**7:30 am – 5:00 pm – Registration**

Emerald Registration Booth – FEPC Participant Registration

**8:00 am – 5:00 pm – Training Sessions**

Pre-registration is required for Training Sessions; Walk-ins accepted on a space available basis

**Emerald A**

**L-105 Public Information Basics – Day 3 of 3**

**Emerald B**

**G-2302 EOC Leaders Skillset – Day 3 of 3**

**Emerald C**

**G1301 Continuity Planning – Day 2 of 2**

**8:00 am – Noon – Training Sessions**

**Emerald D**

**FL-680: Individual Assistance - The Local Role**

This course breaks down the fundamentals of Individual Assistance (IA), which is designed to coordinate assistance provided to individuals and households recovering from disaster. Topics include overviews of federal, state, local, and

non-profit disaster assistance programs, information sharing and privacy, and planning for disaster housing missions. Students will leave this course with a better understanding of how to better support individuals in their communities by leveraging all available assistance mechanisms.

**Prerequisites:** None

**FEPA Certification Hours:**

4 hours towards the Recovery Mission Area

**Instructors:**

Recovery Bureau Staff – Florida Division of Emergency Management

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# Tuesday, January 27, 2026

**8:00 am – Noon – Training Session**

**Emerald E**

## **Introduction to Florida Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP)**

This course provides an overview of the core concepts of Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) for nuclear power plants and explains how these concepts are applied within the State of Florida. It is designed for county emergency managers located outside the 50-mile Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) as well as those serving in ingestion pathway counties.

Participants will gain foundational knowledge of radiological hazards, preparedness principles, and response actions. By the end of the course, emergency managers will be better equipped to support mutual aid operations and effectively communicate radiological risks to stakeholders within their own jurisdictions during a radiological incident.

**Prerequisites:** None

**FEPA Certification Hours:**

4 hours towards the Protection, Response, or Recovery Mission Area

**Instructors:**

Ian Craig – Brevard County Emergency Management



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**10:00 am – Noon**

**FEPA Board of Directors Meeting**

**Coral A**

**1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

**FLVOAD Winter Quarterly Meeting**

**Coral A**

**1:00 pm – 5:00 pm – Training Sessions**

**Emerald D**

## **Taking FROC to the Next Level**

Stay ahead of the curve and join the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) as we discuss changes to the Florida Recovery Obligation Calculation (F-ROC) program! In this course, you will learn about the key 2025-2026 changes made to the F-ROC program and how this will impact you. You will also get an in-depth breakdown of the refreshed FEMA-Accepted F-ROC Forms and learn how to effectively complete them to capture key information for your FEMA Project Worksheet (PW). Additionally, you will learn about the Project Aggregation Tool (PAT) and its benefits, discover how the PAT compiles all completed F-ROC forms in one place, and see how the PAT generates a summary workbook for Public Assistance project expenses. Lastly, you will learn actionable tips for earning points on the Disaster Readiness Assessment (DRA), with insights into best practices and common pitfalls. Whether you are new to F-ROC or looking to sharpen your expertise, this course delivers the tools and knowledge you need to successfully prepare to recover!

**Prerequisites:** None

**FEPA Certification Hours:**

4 hours towards the Recovery Mission Area

**Instructors:**

Recovery Bureau Staff – Florida Division of Emergency Management

**Emerald E**

## **Tabletop Exercise**

This is a ½ day tabletop exercise

**Prerequisites:** None

**FEPA Certification Hours:** None

**Instructors:**

Amy Heimberger-Lopez, FPEM – Martin County Emergency Management

**5:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

**FEPA 101 New Member Orientation**

**Coral A**



# Wednesday, January 28, 2026

## Break Schedule:

Emerald Ballroom Foyer

7:30 am – 8:00 am Coffee Break

10:00 am – 10:15 am – Mid-Morning Break

Noon – 1:00 pm – Lunch on Your Own

3:00 pm – 3:15 pm – Afternoon Break

## 7:30 am – 5:00 pm – Registration

Emerald Registration Booth – FEPC Participant Registration

## 9:30 am – 4:00 pm - Exhibit Area Open

## 8:15 am – 10:00 am Opening General Session

Emerald C, D, E

### Presentation of Colors

South Walton Fire District Honor Guard

### Pledge of Allegiance

### Welcome and Introductions

Jonathan Lord, FPEM - FEPA President

Jeff Goldberg, FPEM, FMI Director, Walton County Emergency Management

Brad Drake, Chair, Walton County Board of County Commissioners

### Opening Session Keynote Presentation

#### Airbnb.org Disaster Housing Program: The In's and Out's

In the aftermath of disasters, access to safe, temporary housing is critical. Airbnb.org partners with local organizations, such as 2-1-1, to match individuals and families in need with available short-term housing through Airbnb's global platform. In this general session keynote and Q&A, Nirbana Habash will outline the program's capabilities and share how emergency management agencies can integrate Airbnb.org into their post-disaster housing strategies.

#### Speaker:

Christine Chang, Head of Global Operations, Airbnb.org

## 10:00 am – 10:30 am Morning Break Exhibit Area

## 10:30 am – 5:00 pm – Workshop

### Emerald A

## Leveraging GIS to Enhance Emergency Management Operations and Decision-Making - An Interactive Roundtable Discussion

This is a dynamic, hands-on session designed to engage emergency management professionals in the power of GIS. Through collaborative group activities, brainstorming, and real-world scenarios, participants will explore how spatial thinking and GIS tools can improve disaster response, resource management, and decision-making. Attendees will work together on exercises like flood response planning, search and rescue coordination, and critical infrastructure protection, learning how GIS can optimize evacuation routes, monitor real-time data, and map vulnerabilities.

No prior GIS experience is required. Participants will gain insights into how spatial data can enhance emergency operations and leave with practical, actionable ideas for incorporating GIS into their current workflows. This session is ideal for public safety officials, disaster response coordinators, and other professionals eager to strengthen their decision-making capabilities using spatial tools. Whether you're looking

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# Wednesday, January 28, 2026

to start small or integrate GIS into a broader strategic initiative, this interactive roundtable will inspire new approaches to managing emergencies and protecting communities. Please note this interactive workshop is for 5.5 hours.

## Speakers:

Carley Fitzgerald, FAEM – Highlands County Board of County Commissioners

Corey Amundsen, FAEM – Highlands County Emergency Management

**10:30 am – Noon - Workshops**

### **Emerald B**

## **Large Language Models and You: Demystifying the Future**

Artificial Intelligence is no longer just a buzzword—it's a collaborative tool helping organizations and personnel communicate more effectively, analyze information faster, and streamline day-to-day work. At the center of this evolution are Large Language Models (LLMs), powerful systems that generate text, answer questions, and even assist in complex problem-

solving. But what exactly are they, and how do they work?

This session provides a high-level overview of LLMs, breaking down the mystery behind their capabilities. While the underlying processes are complex, the core ideas are rooted in familiar concepts, making them easier to understand than they might first appear. The presentation will also explore how LLMs can be applied in the workplace to streamline routine tasks, improve efficiency, and support smarter workflows.

By the end of the session, attendees will walk away with a clear, jargon-free understanding of how LLMs function and how they can be thoughtfully applied in both professional and everyday settings.

## Speakers:

Sterling Mullett, 911 Coordinator, Leon County Government

### **Emerald C**

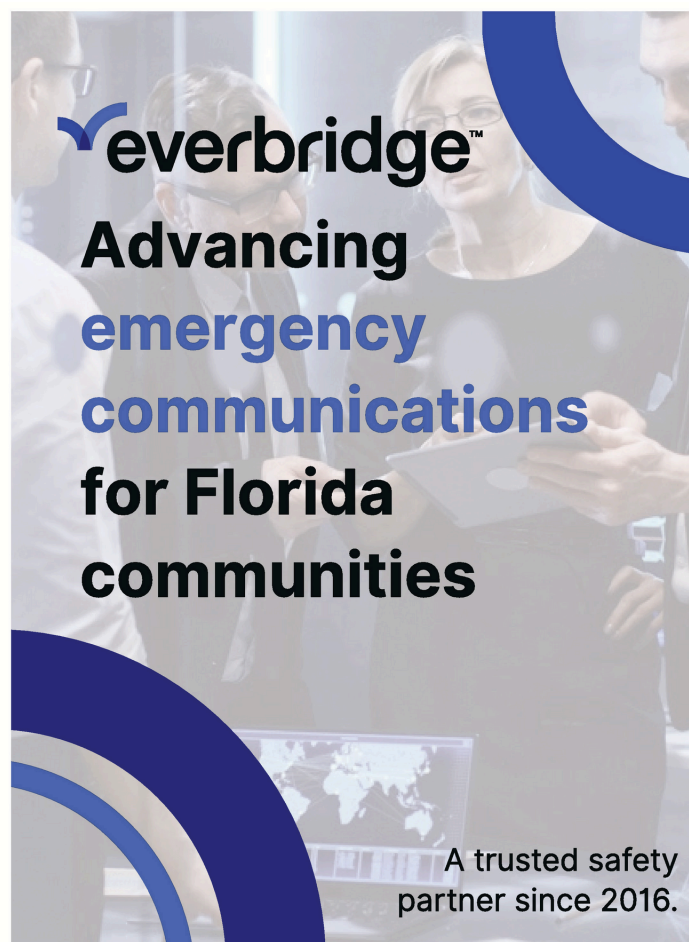
## **Come Together: Building Community Resilience Through Collaboration**

In a world of increasing risks and complex emergencies, strong community resilience requires more than just preparedness—it demands collaboration. Leon County, Florida, has pioneered a unique and effective model by merging its Emergency Management Division and Public Information Division into a unified Department of Community Relations and Resilience. This innovative structure fosters seamless collaboration across public awareness campaigns, preparedness education, emergency alerts, and crisis communications.

In this engaging workshop, participants will explore how Leon County's integrated approach has enhanced community preparedness, streamlined public messaging, and strengthened the Countywide Joint Information System. By positioning the Public Information Division as the lead for ESF-14 and embracing a proactive role in emergency education, the department has elevated both response efficiency and public trust.

Attendees will also meet Billy the Bucket, the County's youth disaster preparedness mascot, who plays a key role in early childhood preparedness outreach through interactive story times, a custom coloring book, and community appearances. This creative, child-focused initiative is one of many ways the department builds resilience from the ground up.

Whether you represent a county, city, or state agency, this session will provide practical insights into how combining public information and emergency management functions can break silos, enhance communication, and prepare your community for whatever lies ahead.



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# Wednesday, January 28, 2026

## Speakers:

Elizabeth Loeffelman, Innovation Officer, Library System, Leon County Government

Kevin Peters, Director of Emergency Management, Leon County Government

Billy The Bucket, Mascot, Leon County Government

## Emerald D

### Leading and Managing People in Blue Skies and Grey Skies

As we move up in the Emergency Management profession, few resources are available that focus on effectively managing or leading staff members. This session will provide an opportunity for those newer to managing and leading staff to benefit from very experienced managers/leaders sharing lessons they have learned during their careers. For experienced managers, these lessons can serve as reminders and continuous learning on leading and managing people. The session will explore lessons on effectively leading and managing staff and teams during “blue sky” days, as well as during crisis/disaster situations. Our intent is to leave ample time at the end of the workshop for questions from the audience, as well as for the audience to share from their experience.

## Speakers:

Gary Scronce – IEM

Maggie Steenburg – Miami Dade County Emergency Management

## Emerald E

### Reaching the Masses: Building an Emergency Alert Program that Engages the Whole Community

When major events impact your community, you need to notify the right people, with the right information, in the right ways—and you need to do it fast. Many local governments have limited ability to reach people, and traditional “opt-in” emergency alert systems have limitations. This session explores how to expand the reach of emergency alerts by promoting your alert programs, expanding the database on contacts, partnering with the right organizations, and establishing easy ways to communicate emergency information in multiple ways—phone calls, email, text message, mobile app, social media, IPAWS, websites, and more.

## Speakers:

Kate Dean, FPEM – Everbridge

**Noon – 1:30 pm – Lunch on Your Own**

## 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm Workshops

## Emerald B

### The Long Game: Understanding Long-Range Forecasts for Emergency Management

Emergency Management professionals are highly skilled in responding to short-term weather threats like severe storms and hurricanes. But what about the weather weeks or even months ahead? How can patterns in the ocean and atmosphere today help communities prepare for what’s coming next season?

This workshop is designed to bridge the gap between short-term weather operations and long-term preparedness planning. Led by meteorologists from the National Weather Service Tallahassee Forecast Office and the Florida State Climatologist, this session will introduce Emergency Management professionals to the long-range forecast products from the Climate Prediction Center. Participants will gain insight into key atmospheric and oceanic patterns—such as El Niño and the Madden-Julien Oscillation—that influence seasonal outlooks and extended forecasts. Presenters will explain how these teleconnections are analyzed to generate long-range predictions and how these tools can support proactive decision-making.



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## READY FOR ANYTHING



# Wednesday, January 28, 2026

By the end of this workshop, attendees will be equipped with the knowledge to interpret seasonal forecasts and apply that understanding to improve community resilience and strategic planning in Emergency Management.

## Speakers:

Mark Wool, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, National Weather Service

David Zierden, State Climatologist, Florida Climate Center at Florida State University

## Emerald C

### Community-Led Disaster Recovery that Leads to Resilience

This applied workshop shows how to convert disruptions into a practical operational playbook for community resilience. Instead of chasing single “root causes,” participants build a condition map across operations, policy, contracts, budgets, and community assets (VOAD/COAD, disability & LEP services, neighborhood groups, universities, and small-business networks). Clint grounds the method in Florida recovery realities—debris, permitting, housing, and volunteer routing—while Alicia equips the room with simple tools: a Recovery

Action Register, a Partner Activation Checklist, and five-metric Outcomes (e.g., debris set-out compliance, permit cycle time, VOAD referral latency, assistance application completion, and near-miss/rumor signal closure rate). Participants leave with a 90-day workplan cycle ready to launch and a Quarterly Outcomes Review agenda that keeps progress visible and shared. The approach is hazard-agnostic and designed to survive leadership turnover—so wins compound into lasting community resilience.

## Speakers:

Alicia Johnson – Two Lynchpin Road (TLR)

Clint Mecham – Volusia County Emergency Management

## Emerald D

### Beyond the Headlines: Developing Analytical Skills for Emergency Management Decision-Making

In today’s information-rich environment, emergency managers are inundated with news updates, social media posts, and AI-generated summaries. But being a true practitioner means going beyond surface-level information. This session explores how to critically analyze and contextualize news and data to understand the broader implications for emergency management. Participants will learn strategies to “connect the dots,” identify patterns, and apply insights to real-world scenarios—enhancing their capabilities in planning, response, and recovery. Whether you’re monitoring emerging threats or evaluating policy shifts, this session will help you grow from a passive consumer of information to an active, informed decision-maker.

## Speakers:

Emily Zegowitz, FPEM – IEM

Maggie Steenburg – Miami-Dade Emergency Management


## Emerald E

### Preparedness for All: Engaging Seniors & Underserved Families in Disaster Readiness

Disasters don’t impact all communities equally, seniors, low-income families, and other underserved populations often face unique barriers in preparedness and recovery. This workshop will highlight strategies for engaging these vulnerable groups in disaster readiness using community-based, sustainable approaches. The session will also include interactive discussion and real-world tools that attendees can take back to their agencies and communities to strengthen resilience for all voices at the table.

## Speakers:

Maghan Barber - The Libella Foundation




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**Wednesday, January 28, 2026**

**3:00 pm – 3:30 pm**  
**Afternoon Break Exhibit Area**

**3:30 pm – 5:00 pm Workshops**

**Emerald B**

**HSEEP-ish: Designing Exercises That Work**

This workshop, led by Master Exercise Practitioners (MEPs), dives into the practical realities of exercise design, development, facilitation, and evaluation. While HSEEP provides a solid framework, real-world exercises often require flexibility, creativity, and adaptation. Through candid stories, field-tested tips, and lessons learned, participants will explore how to create exercises that are HSEEP consistent—even when full compliance isn't feasible. Whether you're planning a tabletop or a full-scale exercise, this session will equip you with the tools, insights, and confidence to navigate the gray areas and deliver impactful, meaningful exercises.

**Speakers:**

Stacy Aloisio, FPEM – City of Northport Emergency Management  
Ryan Simpson, FPEM – Flagler County Emergency Management  
Emily Zegowitz, FPEM – IEM

**Emerald C**

**Harnessing Donated Resources**

Managing donated resources after a disaster is often one of the most challenging and misunderstood areas of emergency response. This session will explore best practices, lessons learned, and real-world examples of how donated resources are effectively managed to ensure they meet survivor needs without overwhelming local communities. Attendees will walk away with strategies to improve their own community's approach to donations management and will better understand the role FROC plays in supporting state and local disaster operations.

**Speakers:**

Christy Rojas, FPEM – Volunteer Florida Emergency Management  
FDEM Recovery Staff

**Emerald D**

**Working Effectively with Elected Officials**

The missions of Emergency Managers and First Responders are not political in nature. Truly excelling in accomplishing those missions during disaster preparedness, response, and recovery, even mitigation, requires effective collaboration and communication with elected and other government officials. This session will provide an opportunity for both experienced emergency managers, and those newer to the mission, to learn

from their peers how they have navigated this important part of the job and from Florida elected officials on what they need from emergency managers to do their job effectively.

**Speakers:**

Gary Scronce – IEM  
Travis Tompkins – Escambia County Emergency Management  
Commissioner David Pettis Jr. – Washington County Board of  
County Commissioners  
Commissioner Ashlee Hofberger – Escambia County Board of  
County Commissioners

**Emerald E**

**Communicating with At-Risk Populations  
During Emergencies**

Emergency managers face common challenges when major incidents occur. Resource management, asset tracking and damage assessments are essential to effectively manage incidents, but many organizations struggle with how to document, communicate, coordinate and analyze the information. This session explores capabilities and best practices that empower organizations to excel in these areas.

**Speakers:**

Kate Dean, FPEM – Everbridge

**5:30 pm – 6:30 pm**  
**President's Welcome Reception**  
**Vendor Exhibit Area**

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# Thursday, January 29, 2026

**7:30 am – 5:00 pm – Registration**

Emerald Registration Booth – FEPC Participant Registration

**9:30 am – 10:30 am - Exhibit Area Open**

**8:15 am – 10:00 am – General Session**

Emerald C, D, E

**Welcome and Introductions**

Jonathan Lord, FPEM – FEPA President

**General Session Presentation:**

A Bird's Eye View: Supporting Disaster Response with NASA's  
Open Satellite Data

**Speaker:**

Alex Melancon – NASA

**10:00 am – 10:30 am – Morning Break**

Emerald Foyer

**10:30 am – 12:00 pm**

**FEPA 2026 Awards Ceremony**

Kelly Wilson, FPEM

Co-Chair, FEPA Membership and Awards Committee

**Recognition of FEPA Certification Class of 2026**

Celeste Fournier, FPEM – Chair FEPA Certification  
Commission

**Recognition of FEPA 2026 Awards Recipients**

Kelly Wilson, FPEM – Co-Chair, FEPA Membership  
and Awards Committee

**10:30 am – Noon – Exhibit Hall Tear Down**

Emerald Foyer

**Noon – 1:30 pm – Lunch on Your Own**

**1:30 pm – 3:00 pm – Workshop**

**Emerald A**

**When Data Talks: GIS + PIO for Clear, Crisis-  
Ready Communication**

Public Information Officers are often the public face of an agency during emergencies, responsible for delivering timely, accurate, and clear information. Increasingly, those messages rely on geospatial data – maps, dashboards, and visualizations developed by GIS professionals. This session is designed for Public Information Officers, GIS staff, and emergency management professionals who want to strengthen collaboration and improve how data-driven stories are told.

Using real-world public safety and emergency management examples, this workshop explores where PIO and GIS priorities align – and where they can clash. Participants will discuss common challenges such as unclear mapping requests, misleading visuals, and competing timelines, and learn strategies to avoid them. Guided discussion and activities will help attendees better understand each other's roles and identify opportunities to use maps as effective communication tools rather than just technical products.

Attendees will leave with practical takeaways, including how to frame effective GIS requests, recognize when a visualization may confuse or mislead the public, and leverage geospatial products to build trust and credibility. By the end of the session, participants will be better equipped to work together to deliver clear, accurate, and impactful public messaging.



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**Speakers:**

Karen Clogston – Highlands County Board of County Commissioners

Carley Fitzgerald, FPEM – Highlands County Board of County Commissioners

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**Emerald B****“All Hazards, Smart Choices: Strategic Contracting for Best Results”**

In today's dynamic emergency management landscape, contracting is no longer just a procurement function—it's a strategic tool for resilience. This session explores how government agencies can make smart, informed contracting choices across all hazards to maximize value, ensure compliance, and improve outcomes. From pre-disaster planning to post-disaster recovery, participants will learn how to align contracting strategies with operational goals, navigate federal requirements, and leverage partnerships for best results. A panel of representatives from multiple firms as well as client agencies will discuss not only the procurement aspect, but how to obtain the most value from your contracted support. Through case studies, lessons learned, and interactive discussion, attendees will gain insights into Building flexible, scalable contracts for all-hazard scenarios; Avoiding common pitfalls in emergency contracting; Collaborating with contractors to enhance capabilities and get the most bang for your buck

**Speakers:**

Lisa Poziomek, FPEM - IEM

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**Emerald C****Innovation in Disaster Case Management: Florida's Combined Helene and Milton Program**

Florida has administered Disaster Case Management Programs (DCMP) since Hurricane Irma, but 2024 brought a new challenge back-to-back major hurricanes within weeks of each other. For the first time, Florida combined DCMP funding and operations for Hurricanes Helene and Milton, while also piloting several innovative approaches to survivor support. This session will provide an update on lessons learned from the combined program model, highlight pilot programs being tested, and share early successes and challenges. Attendees will gain insight into how Florida is adapting DCMP to meet evolving survivor needs and how these innovations may shape the future of case management nationwide.

**Speakers:**

Christy Rojas, FPEM – Volunteer Florida Emergency Management  
Jim O'Brien - CDR Maguire

**Emerald D****FEPA Certification: The Why & How**

Are you unsure about completing a FEPA Certification Application? Have you decided to submit for your FEMV, FAEM, or FPEM but aren't sure how to proceed? This workshop will offer answers to your questions regarding whether FEPA Certification is right for you and how to navigate the process. This is an opportunity to interface directly with FEPA Certification Commissioners and receive on-site mentoring as you begin your Certification journey.

**Speakers:**

Celeste Fournier, FPEM – Lee County Emergency Management  
Jeff Goldberg, FPEM, FMI – Walton County Emergency Management

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**Emerald E****FEPA Training Path Forward**

As the field of emergency management continues to evolve, so must the way we prepare our professionals. This session will revisit the training framework concept introduced at the 2024 Mid-Year Meeting and explore how it can shape a more consistent, scalable, and practical pathway for current and future emergency managers across Florida. Participants will receive an overview of the proposed training structure, including core competencies, recommended course sequencing, and opportunities for alignment with statewide and national standards.

This session is designed to be highly interactive. Attendees will be invited to share perspectives, identify gaps, and discuss what tools, resources, and expectations are most needed to support professional development at all levels, from newcomers to seasoned leaders. Feedback gathered during this workshop will directly inform FEPA's next steps in refining and formalizing the training pathway.

**Speakers:**

John Scott, FPEM – Brevard County Emergency Management

**3:00 pm – 3:30 pm**

**Afternoon Break Exhibit Area**



# Thursday, January 29, 2026

**3:30 pm – 5:00 pm Workshops**

## **Emerald A**

### **Best Practices to Maximize PA 1206 Funding and Meet SB 180 Requirements for Permitting, Substantial Damage Assessments, & Code Enforcement**

FEMA Public Assistance, under 1206 provisions, can reimburse local and state governments for certain costs related to permitting, substantial damage determinations, code enforcement, and public outreach and education. This training will highlight key planning considerations before the next disaster including how to meet the new requirements outlined in Florida SB 180 pertaining to substantial damage determination assessments, how to surge staff and resources effectively after a disaster, key implementation steps expected by FEMA to maintain your Community Rating System score, and documentation management best practices to streamline the PA process.

#### **Speakers:**

Laura Dhuwe – FDEM Chief of Mitigation

Ryan Lamb – Cape Coral Director of Emergency Management and Resilience

Tanya Shannon – Deputy Director of Recovery for Hagerty Consulting

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## **Emerald B**

### **Introductions - The Most Important Part of Delivering a Course**

Leading questions, the solicitation of answers - how to use the introduction at the beginning of a course to set the foundation for a facilitated discussion. How to identify SME Students, Novices, Prisoners and the workday skippers and how to blend these into a cohesive team of students who'll help deliver the intended content.

#### **Speakers:**

Alex MacKinnon FPEM, FMI – Leon County Emergency Management

## **Emerald C**

### **Snowmageddon 2025 - That really was snow in Florida**

So, remember when you said, "I'll do that when it freezes over"? Guess what? That's exactly what happened in January 2025 with the western panhandle getting the brunt of it with snowfall in excess of 8 inches! In this workshop, you'll hear from a few Region 1 county directors discussing how we prepared, responded, and recovered from the unprecedented snowfall in January 2025. Since "it" froze over, it's time to go "do the thing."

#### **Speakers:**

Jeff Goldberg, FPEM, FMI – Walton County Emergency Management

Travis Tompkin, FPEM – Escambia County Emergency Management

Tom Lloyd – Santa Rosa County Public Safety

Ryan Prince – Okaloosa County Public Safety

Lt. Barry Lee – Holmes County Sheriff's Office, Emergency Management Division

## **Emerald D**

### **FEPA: The Road Ahead**

Recap changes that occurred for FEPA members in the 2025 year. Address the ongoing efforts to improve the association. Solicit feedback on how the members view the changes, and what efforts they would like to see move forward. Highlight avenues, and issue direct invitations for the membership to contribute (in-session sign-ups for WGs, projects, etc). Essentially - we took your feedback and we actioned it... what's next?

#### **Speakers:**

Elizabeth Caison, FPEM – Florida Division of Emergency Management



**Friday, January 30, 2026**

**FEPA Corporate Members  
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Garner Environmental Services	UCF - Emergency Management
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**8:00 am – 9:00 am – Breakfast**

**Coral A,B,C**

**9:00 am – 11:00 am  
Closing General Session**

**Welcome**

Jonathan Lord, FPEM  
President, FEPA

**Florida Division of Emergency Management Update**

Kevin Guthrie  
Executive Director, FDEM

**FEPA General Membership Business Meeting**

**Installation of FEPA Officers**

Kelly Wilson, FPEM  
FEPA Parliamentarian

**FEPA President's Remarks and Closing Comments**



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## Honorable Mention



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