

| Thursday, May 22 | Session Title | Description | Track | Presenter(s) |
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| Session 5: 1:45 pm - 3:00 pm | Communications in the Field: Intel, Safety and Documentation | <p>Disasters are now more frequent, costly, complex and larger than in the past. In 'After Action Reports' we routinely note that communications is an area needing improvement.</p> <p>Areas that are critical to response and recovery are outlined in fire communications are: conditions, hazards analysis, actions taken, needs assessment and resource requests, and personnel accountability. All of these must be documented. One method used to report concisely, accurately and timely is the C.A.N.P. protocol. Conditions, Actions, Needs and Personnel Accountability Report.</p> <p>MNVOAD has created their 'Field Operations Teams' to observe, report and document this information and pass it on quickly to emergency management, incident planners and others.</p> | Emerging Practices & Innovation | Ryc Lyden |
| Session 5: 1:45 pm - 3:00 pm | Equitable Disaster Response & Recovery: Going the Distance for Black Communities | <p>This workshop will explore case studies from the Black Resilience Network Emergency Operations Center and Community Resilience Hubs initiative. The BEOC is a virtual EOC that has supported response and recovery efforts around the country in collaboration with Black-led organizations and communities and our allies. The Community Resilience Hubs initiative is a proactive approach to supporting communities' in developing capabilities to lead in disaster and climate resilience. The Black Resilience Network convener and a founding member will share promising practices and lessons learned for collaborations with community-based and faith-based organizations, especially organizations that are disconnected from the state VOAD infrastructure.</p> | Social Justice & Equity in Disaster Response | Atyia Martin, Anelle Primm |
| Session 5: 1:45 pm - 3:00 pm | Supporting Pregnant and Lactating Families During Emergencies | <p>Everyone who is pregnant, lactating or feeding young children should have access to a safe, healthy, and respectful experience, even during a disaster. Natural disasters and public health emergencies disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, including individuals who are pregnant, lactating, or feeding young children. Despite the complexity of their needs as a person impacted by an adverse event and as a caregiver of young children and babies who have unique needs and risks, current emergency response protocols often fail to prioritize maternal, infant, and child health, resulting in preventable harm. This workshop will convene experts and stakeholders to address the critical gaps in disaster preparedness and response for maternal and infant care.</p> <p>The panel will feature speakers with diverse experiences, including on-the-ground practitioners who have supported families during disasters (including Helen in Western North Carolina), policy experts who have successfully engaged a wide range of stakeholders to implement maternal health-focused emergency protocols, and advocates who have championed equitable practices in disaster response. Together, they will provide practical strategies and actionable recommendations for organizations and policymakers to adopt inclusive, respectful, and health-centered practices.</p> <p>Attendees will leave with tools to advocate for systemic change and practical steps to implement inclusive policies in their own organizations.</p> | Social Justice & Equity in Disaster Response | Love Anderson |

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| <p>Session 5: 1:45 pm - 3:00 pm</p> | <p>Strengthening Disaster Food Distribution: Innovative Practices for Resilience and Collaboration</p> | <p>As disasters increase in frequency and severity, this workshop will explore how innovative practices, strategic partnerships, and advanced technologies can enhance disaster preparedness and resilience.</p> <p>Hurricane Helene presented new challenges and opportunities to examine the way we prepare for and respond to disasters in the "new normal".</p> <p>Through real-world examples and collaborative discussions, participants will learn how food banks, VOADs, and partners are transforming disaster response to ensure equitable food security and community support during crises.</p> <p>Feeding America is at the forefront of efforts to feed millions of Americans daily, and is present in communities across the country before, during, and after disasters.</p> <p>This compelling presentation examines the complex relationships between Feeding America's partner food banks, VOAD partners, government agencies, suppliers, and donors from a national and state perspective.</p> | <p>Emerging Practices & Innovation</p> | <p>Racine Droz, Mike Darrow, Vincent Davis</p> |
| <p>Session 5: 1:45 pm - 3:00 pm</p> | <p>Weathering the Storm: Building Community Resilience through Better Partner Engagement</p> | <p>Weather, water, and climate hazards constantly reshape the landscape of community resilience. This demands that we, the NWS, rethink how we deliver our products and services, especially to underserved communities disproportionately affected by these events. Our traditional approach must transform to ensure that every individual, family, and community has access to timely, easy to understand actionable information. Equity in weather services isn't just an organizational goal—it's a real-world necessity for building resilient communities. Our new community engagement strategy is designed to guide and focus our efforts. It asks us to join forces with community agents of change, such as VOADs/COADs/NGOs, moving the needle from vulnerability to resilience; guided by a culturally-responsive approach that recognizes the realities of communities and their cultural values, beliefs, practices, and perspectives. A key element of our strategy is to identify and build connections with the community based organizations that live in and support communities as they prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. We recognize that the NWS Community Engagement Strategy needs to resonate with the VOAD/COAD/NGO community, and the aim of this this presentation is to begin a dialogue on how we can work better with these organizations across the United States to ensure that those most in need and vulnerable to weather, water, and climate hazards are able to access and understand the information we provide.</p> | <p>The 4 C's</p> | <p>Tyra Harris, David Bieger</p> |

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| <p>Session 5: 1:45 pm - 3:00 pm</p> | <p>Disaster Legal Scenarios - An Interactive Approach</p> | <p>Join us for an interactive session in which we explore numerous legal impediments that impair a disaster survivor's path to recovery and how to meet these unique needs. Following a brief presentation of common disaster legal issues, we will investigate common survivor fact patterns, facilitating audience participation to promote a discussion on legal issue spotting and the means to resolve these needs.</p> <p>Legal issues are pervasive during all phases following a disaster incident, from immediate response to long-term recovery. Learn the evolution of prominent legal issues during these phases, and gain awareness of red flags leading to the identification of these issues within common survivor fact patterns.</p> <p>During this session, we will explore a variety of legal issues, including landlord-tenant issues, FEMA Appeals, consumer law Issues, home ownership hurdles, insurance impediments, and contractor issues.</p> <p>Knowing the basics of these legal issues is dramatically important for providing holistic support for a survivor's recovery. During this session, you will engage with presenters and fellow participants to explore your experiences, discuss concerns, offer suggestions, and cooperatively engage in problem-solving for the needs of survivors in the presented scenarios. You will leave this session with a refined understanding of the legal environment following a disaster and keen grasp on how to resolve these situations.</p> | <p>Training & Education</p> | <p>John Lawless, Josh Gaul, Christa Figgins, Whitney Bailey</p> |
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