



2020 NYSEMA Conference

February 11-13, 2020

Embassy Suites at Destiny USA
311 Hiawatha Blvd. W, Syracuse, NY 13204

Conference Agenda


All Programs are for Registered Conference Attendees Only

Tuesday, February 11, 2020		
Time	Topic	Presenter
9:00 am	Conference Registration Opens	Atrium
9:30 am - 9:35 am	Opening Remarks - Welcome To NYSEMA	Chris Baker, President
9:35 am – 10:00 am	Vigilant Guard Exercise Briefing	LTC Aron Sacchetti Division of Military and National Affairs (DMNA), NY National Guard
10:00 am – 11:30 am	Emergency Management Program – <i>Municipal & County EM's Only</i>	NYSEMA
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Lunch	
12:30 pm – 2:30 pm	NYS DHSES Updates	Commissioner Patrick Murphy and DHSES Executive Staff
2:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Break	
3:00 pm – 3:45 pm	Threat Assessment	Ian Anderson, NYS DHSES
3:45 pm – 5:00 pm	NYSEMA Business Meeting <i>For NYSEMA Active (Voting) Members only</i> Legislative Update	Chris Baker, President NYSEMA Katie Hohman, Sheridan Hohman & Associates
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Vendor Reception	Atrium

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Wednesday, February 12, 2020		
Time	Topic	Presenter
6:00 am – 8:00 am	Breakfast	Hotel Restaurant
8:00 am	Conference Registration Reconvenes	Atrium
8:00 am - 8:05 am	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Liberty Ballroom Rooms 1 & 2; Chris Baker, President
8:05 am – 9:00 am	Emergency Manager Certification Refresher and Training	Rebecca Wilburn, NYSDHSES
9:00 am – 10:00 am	Development of City of Ithaca Flood Hazard Analysis Tool for Use in Emergency Planning and Preparedness	Wendell Buckman, Senior Managing Engineer Barton & Loguidice Michael Thorne, Supt. of Public Works City of Ithaca
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Break – Vendor Networking	
10:30 am – Noon	Streams and Human Impacts	Jim Lieberum Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District
Noon – 1:00 pm	Lunch with Vendors	Atrium / Liberty Ballroom Rooms 3 & 4
1:00 pm – 1:45 pm	New York VOAD Technical Assistance & Toolkits	Peter Gudaitis, President New York Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) Jamie Marcella, Volunteer Agency Liaison, NYS DHSES
1:45 pm – 2:30 pm	How the Public-Government Trust Dynamic Influences an Efficacious Response to a Major Emergency	Shelomo Alfassa, Emergency Management Analyst VIRSIG, LLC
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Break – Vendor Networking	Atrium / Liberty Ballroom Rooms 3 & 4

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Wednesday, February 12, 2020		
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	The Health and Medical Perspective: Mass Fatality Incident (MFI) Planning	Vincent Fargione, Logistics Chief NYS DOH Office of Health Emergency Preparedness
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Schoharie County Limo Accident: Mass Fatality Lessons Learned	Colleen Flynn, Emergency Manager Schoharie County Office of Emergency Services
5:00 pm	Closing Remarks	Chris Baker, President
5:00 – 6:00 pm	Vendor Networking	
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Awards Dinner Sponsored by: 	Liberty Ballroom Rooms 3 & 4

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Thursday, February 13, 2020		
Time	Topic	Presenter
6:00 am – 8:00 am	Breakfast	Hotel Restaurant
8:00 am	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Chris Baker, President
8:00 am – 10:00 am	KEYNOTE SPEAKER Leading Before, During, and After the Crisis: Boston Marathon Bombing	Daniel Linskey, Retired Superintendent-in-Chief Boston Police Department Managing Director Kroll – Security & Risk Management
10:00 am – 10:10 am	Break	
10:10 am – Noon	KEYNOTE CONTINUED: Leading Before, During and After the Crisis: Boston Marathon Bombing	
Noon	Closing Remarks	Chris Baker, President

Speaker Bios (*alphabetical order by last name*):

Shelomo Alfassa, Emergency Management Analyst, VIRSIG, LLC.

Shelomo Alfassa is a full-time corporate emergency management & homeland security professional in NYC. He has 25 years of public safety sector experience. He has served on several federal deployments on a joint US Public Health Service / FEMA CBRN counter-terrorism response team as Deputy Commander (G8 Summit, the Atlanta Olympics, etc.), and on major Hurricane responses with the NDMS. Alfassa's formal education includes a Harvard Business School post-graduate Certificate in Sustainable Business Strategy; a BA in Homeland Security and a Masters in Public Administration from APU. His certifications include Certified Emergency Disaster Professional (CEDP); Certified Occupational Safety and Health Specialist (OSHS); EMT (25 years); and has passed the IAEM's CEM examination, with an expectation of earning his credential in late 2019. He is the 2019/2020 President of the APUS Student Chapter of the IAEM.

Ian Anderson, Intelligence Analyst, New York State Police

Ian Anderson currently serves as an intelligence analyst with the New York State Police Counter (NYSP) Terrorism Center (CTC) at the New York State Intelligence Center (NYSIC), where he has been stationed the last six years. Prior to his transfer to the NYSP in January 2017, Mr. Anderson held the same title at the NYSIC while employed by the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services' (DHSES) Office of Counter Terrorism (OCT). Mr. Anderson's research and professional practice focus on intelligence analysis, the global jihadist movement, and terrorist behavior. Mr. Anderson also currently serves as an Adjunct Professor at the University at Albany – teaching on the topics of homeland security, terrorism, and political violence. Mr. Anderson graduated from the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy (2009) with a Masters in Public Administration (MPA) focusing in Homeland Security Studies and earned his BA in Political Science from the University of Albany (2007).

Christopher Baker, President, NYSEMA

Chris Baker currently serves as the President of the New York State Emergency Management Association. He is the Emergency Manager and County Fire Coordinator for Cattaraugus County for over ten years. Chris has a Law Enforcement background from 1985 to present and hold positions in Patrol, Drug Enforcement, Supervisor and Detective. He has 20 years of Tactical Team experience and has held positions as a Team Leader and Tactical Commander. Chris is currently Team Leader for the Tactical Medical Unit.

Wendell R. Buckman, P.E. CFMA, Sr. Managing Engineer, Barton & Loguidice

Wendell Buckman is a Senior Managing Engineer with Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C., a multi-discipline engineering firm headquartered in Syracuse, New York. Wendell is a professional engineer and Certified Floodplain Manager whose work focuses on hydraulic modeling and infrastructure resiliency. Since graduating from Clemson University, he has been with B&L for 19+ years, assisting municipal clients with developing resiliency and hazard mitigation. Wendell was the lead technical engineer for the City of Ithaca's Local Flood Hazard Analysis.

Vincent Fargione, Logistics Chief, NYS DOH Office of Health Emergency Preparedness

Vince Fargione possesses over ten years of experience in emergency management logistics and operations planning, training and response. In his previous position at the State Office of Emergency Management, Vince served as a lead planner and trainer for the State Emergency Operations Center systems and courses, including NY Responds, and EOC Planning, Operations and Logistics courses. He is experienced in coordinating with partners at a local, state and federal level. Vince has served as the state Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) Coordinator and the lead state representative for FEMA Region II. Currently, Vince serves as the Logistics Chief for the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) Office of Health Emergency Preparedness (OHEP) where he manages and oversees the MERC (including CHEMPACK). Vince also facilitates departmental coordination of assets in response to requests, which has included overseeing NYSDOH resources to support the Schoharie Limo accident.

Colleen M. Flynn, Emergency Manager, Schoharie County OES

Colleen Flynn started her career in Emergency Management as a Disaster Recovery Consultant with Adjusters International in 2005, helping counties all over NYS, Texas and Florida recover from disaster by writing FEMA Public Assistance Grants for local applicants. She joined Schoharie County Emergency Management as Deputy Director in the December Ice Storm of 2008, and became Emergency Manager in 2012 when the offices of Emergency Management, Fire Services and EMS joined to become the Office of Emergency Services.

Peter B Gudaitis, President, New York VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster)

Mr. Gudaitis currently serves as Executive Director of New York Disaster Interfaith Services (NYDIS) and President of New York VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) NYDIS is a 501(c)(3) federation of 61 faith-based organizations and faith communities providing disaster readiness, response, and recovery services for NYC. NYDIS has 26 staff and a \$5M budget. NYDIS' 2019 recovery caseload includes over 3,000 9/11, Hurricane Sandy, and Puerto Evacuee clients. Its resilience programs annually train over 6,000 religious leaders and partners. He is a Guest Lecturer and Advisory Board member for the Metropolitan College of New York, Emergency Management Program. Since 2016 he has been the Co-Chair of the NYC Faith Sector Community Preparedness Program Advisory Board of the NYC Department of Health. And, in 2018, he was appointed to the NYS Puerto Rico Recovery & Reconstruction Committee by Governor Cuomo.

Katie Hohman, Partner at Sheridan Hohman & Associates

For 10 years, Katie worked and lobbied for various clients; her proudest accomplishment is the Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Act, signed into law in 2014. Katie spent four years at the NYS Association of Counties as Legislative Director, handling legislation that impacted local governments. While attending graduate school at The College of Saint Rose Katie interned at Capital Group for her now partner, Tim Sheridan. Katie understands the importance of maintaining good relationships and a willingness to learn and is grateful to learn something new every day from a client or new legislation. She is a 2009 graduate of Siena College and remains active in Alumni Relations. Being from Huntington Long Island, Katie is an aquatic enthusiast as a swimmer, boater and deep sea fisher.

Daniel Linskey, Managing Director and Head of Boston Office, Kroll

As the former Superintendent-in-Chief of the Boston Police Department (BPD) and a 27-year veteran of the force, Dan provided strong leadership through some of the most tragic and contentious events in the city's history, including the Boston Marathon bombings and the Occupy Movement. Dan serves clients in diverse industries with uncommon experience in investigations, crisis response, and risk management, as well as personal, physical, and operational security strategies. Widely respected for his knowledge of the complexities inherent in law enforcement and homeland security, Dan has also consulted with numerous national and international government agencies on a broad range of challenges, including large-scale event management, crisis leadership, and preparedness and community engagement strategies.

During his long career in law enforcement, Dan developed a strong commitment to translating the lessons learned from large-scale events, crises, and tragedies throughout the country into training and policies aimed at avoiding the mistakes of the past while also replicating successful strategies. For example, Dan contributed to a report produced by the firm of Edward Davis, LLC that reviewed a large-scale disorder event at the University of Massachusetts, and presented a set of recommendations to prevent future occurrences.

Upon retiring from the Boston Police Department prior to joining Kroll, Dan founded the Linskey Group. In this role, he provided clients with security, law enforcement, and emergency management services, including dignitary protection, cyber security, and confidential investigations, as well as incident reviews and training exercises designed to prepare agencies and facilities for crisis.

After joining the BPD in 1986, Dan rose through the ranks before being promoted to Superintendent-in-Chief, the department's highest sworn member. In this role, he managed the day-to-day operations of a 3,000-person department with a budget of over \$300 million while overseeing a 30% reduction in major crimes over seven years.

While serving as Superintendent-in-Chief, Dan was also the Jurisdictional Point of Contact for the City of Boston, working with the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management to develop, implement, and oversee a regional homeland security strategy addressing all hazards.

Jim Lieberum, District Manager, Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District

Jim is a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC), a certified trainer for the NYSDEC in the Endorsed 4-Hour Erosion and Sediment Control Course and for the Post Flood Emergency Stream Intervention program. In addition to being the District Manager he is also County's and the Town of Queensbury's Stormwater Management Officer and the County Hazard Mitigation Coordinator. Prior to his time with the District, he has been a Utility Forester in Baltimore, MD and an Environmental Educator for Warren County. His office conducts a wide variety of resource enhancement and protection projects throughout the year addressing stormwater management, erosion and sediment control, invasive species and fish and wildlife. Outside of work he, his wife, son and their dog enjoy spending time making maple syrup, gardening, fishing and hunting.

Jamie Marcella, Voluntary Agency Liaison & Program Administrator, Individual Assistance Section

Jamie has been working in emergency preparedness and disaster recovery since the day Superstorm Sandy hit. Starting her career with the American Red Cross, her first assignment was deploying to NYC and Staten Island to assist with recovery efforts. For the past six years she has been working as the NY State Voluntary Agency Liaison for the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES). During her time at DHSES she has consistently built and strengthened relationships with partners across the state, doubling the amount of local Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COADs) getting the state to about 70% COAD coverage. Additionally, seeing a lack of opportunity state wide for non-profits, local, state and federal government to come together and share trainings, experiences and build relationships, she created the NYS Collaborative Coalition Conference. The fourth annual conference is being planned for November 2020. It has more than doubled in participants attending with inclusion from local emergency management, non-profit organizations, State and Federal agencies.

Jamie has deployed nationally three times to Alaska assisting with mass care and Long Term Recovery efforts after the November 2018 7.1 magnitude earthquake, and continues to build relationships not only in her own state but across the country.

Patrick A. Murphy, Commissioner, NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services

Major General Patrick A. Murphy completes over 41 years of military service with his final assignment as the Director National Guard Bureau Joint Staff at the Pentagon, Washington D.C. He previously served as the principal staff officer to the Chief National Guard Bureau in an oversight role of over 450,000 National Guard soldiers and airmen. Major General Murphy's duties included supervising the work of the National Guard Bureau Joint Staff with a focus on Homeland Defense and Defense Support to Civil Authorities. He previously served as The Adjutant General of the New York National Guard commanding a force of over 16,000 citizen soldiers and airmen. Prior to his time in New York, he served as Deputy Chief of Staff for National Guard Affairs, US Third Army in Kuwait and Director Civil Support Plans, U.S. Northern Command. Major General Murphy has served as a helicopter pilot, commanded at the company and battalion level and in brigade senior staff positions. He holds a B.S. from Iowa State University, a Master from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania and is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College.

LTC Aron Sacchetti, Vigilant Guard Exercise 21-3 Project Officer, DMNA-NYNG

After 14 years in the Massachusetts National Guard, LTC Sacchetti spent 18 months deployed to Kosovo. Upon return in 2008, LTC Sacchetti joined NY's 42d Division as a plans officer. He then completed the training to be a Space Operations Officer. In 2014, LTC Sacchetti took command of the Military Police Training Battalion at NY's Regional Training Institute. LTC Sacchetti assumed command of the 2nd Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team in 2016. In 2019, LTC Sacchetti left the 2nd CST and transitioned to Joint Forces Headquarters NY as Project Officer for Vigilant Guard Exercise 21-3, being held May 2021. LTC Sacchetti recently completed the Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Homeland Defense and Security's Masters Program, writing his thesis on bioterrorism and biodefense. He holds both masters and bachelors degrees in microbiology from the UMASS, Amherst and resides in the town of Nassau with his son Adam, his fiancée, Jennifer, and her daughter, Alexis.

Michael Thorne, P.E., Superintendent of Public Works, City of Ithaca

Michael Thorne is the Superintendent of Public Works for the City of Ithaca, providing overall management and supervision of the four divisions within the Department of Public Works. Mr. Thorne holds Bachelors and Masters degrees in Civil Engineering from San Jose State University, and a Masters degree in Real Estate from Cornell University. His career spans over 25 years, with experience that includes civil engineering design, construction management, commercial real estate development, and public works management. Mr. Thorne's focus at the City of Ithaca has been on infrastructure asset management and flood resiliency.

Rebecca Wilburn, Training and Exercise Section Chief, NYS Office of Emergency Management

Rebecca has a Bachelor of Science Degree from Cornell University in Animal Science and Agricultural Education and a Masters of Public Health Degree with a concentration in Environmental Health and Toxicology from the University at Albany. As the Training and Exercise Section Chief Rebecca oversees training programs offered to Emergency Management Professionals, First Responders and others to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters and emergencies. The section also provides support for State and Local exercises. Rebecca is the State Training Point of Contact for the Federal Training programs offered by the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium. Prior to the position as Section Chief Rebecca worked in the Training and Exercises as the Internal Training Branch Chief where she coordinated training for the State EOC, New York Responds and Emergency Support Functions. Rebecca also spent five years working in the OEM Radiological Program and 15 years at the New York State Department of Health Hazardous Substances Emergency Events Surveillance Program. Prior to her years working in State Government Rebecca also worked in the Agricultural Industry as a Regional Manager and taught in a local School District.

NYSEMA Membership Anniversaries

5 Year Anniversaries:

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- Jayesh Desai
- Joseph Flick
- Ken Forenz
- Michael LeCuyer
- Brian Meyers
- Thomas Remmert
- Ronald Rozler
- Christopher Tarantino

10 Year Anniversaries:

- John Bashaw
- Michael Blaise
- Brian LaFlure
- Frederick Lampman
- Dan Neaverth
- Randy Omerod
- Lee Shurtleff
- Melissa Taylor

15 Year Anniversaries:

- Theresa Bennett
- Brian Dahl
- Amy Drexel
- Wes Jones
- James Zymanek

20 Year Anniversaries (Life Member):

- H. Dale Banker
- Christopher Jensen
- Kelly Paslow
- Gerald Payne

Other Notables (Life Members):

- Kevin Niedermaier (25 years)
- Michael Sprague (30 years)
- Ramona Sprague (35 years)
- Earl Loder (40 years)

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