

# **Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference**



**Training Together  
For a Prepared Minnesota**

**September 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> ,2024**

**Breezy Point Resort, Breezy Point, MN**

# OUR ENERGY VISION IS YOUR CARBON-FREE FUTURE



Our **bold vision** centers on our commitment to **climate, customers and communities**.

Minnesota Power is delivering 50% renewable energy today and advancing the clean energy of tomorrow through *EnergyForward*. We're meeting the challenge of climate change head-on while powering our region's homes, hospitals, businesses and industries with cleaner, reliable and affordable energy.







First Minnesota utility to deliver 50% renewable energy.



On our way to more than 70% renewable energy by 2030.



## Blueprint for Building a 100% Carbon-Free Energy Future

	<b>Expand renewable sources of energy</b>	Add up to 700 megawatts of wind and solar power to reach more than 70% renewable energy by 2030, along with a significant investment in energy storage.
	<b>Adapt operations</b>	Use economic dispatch for resources to maximize daily use of renewable energy and grid capabilities, further reducing carbon emissions.
	<b>Achieve coal-free energy supply</b>	Cease coal operations at Boswell Energy Center Unit 3 by 2030 and at Boswell Energy Center Unit 4 by 2035.
	<b>Strengthen the electric grid</b>	Invest in infrastructure for managing the delivery of increasing amounts of renewable energy while providing customers more choice and control.
	<b>Adopt innovative solutions</b>	Use evolving technology to bring our 100% carbon-free commitment home, including demand response and conservation.
	<b>Engage with stakeholders</b>	Work with interested entities on strategies for reaching the carbon-free energy goal reliably, safely, justly and in the most affordable ways.



# ***Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers (AMEM)***

***8716 Arbor Street Duluth MN 55808 (218)626-7930***

***2021-2022***

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Stearns County***

***Past President  
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***Region 5 Representative  
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***Region 6 Representative  
Kelly Miller  
Carver County***

On behalf of the AMEM Board of Directors, we welcome you to the AMEM 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fall Training Conference. The theme of this year's conference is "Preparedness through Partnerships". Highlights include:

Updates from:

- Bob Jacobson, Commissioner of Minnesota Dept. of Public Safety
- Kristi Rollwagen, Director of Minnesota Division of HSEM
- John Kreuser, State Emergency Response Teams Coordinator for the (DPS)
- Ryan Wilkinson, Vice President IAEM- USA Region 5

Four General Sessions:

- Menominee Michigan Warehouse Fire, a 16-day multi-agency response with a lot of takeaways. David Morrison - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- What Minnesota's Changing Climate means for Weather Disasters and Emergencies – Kenneth Blumenfeld, Minnesota Climatology Office, DNR
- Is My Career Killing Me? Jeff Dyar, B.S. NREMT-P, EFO Texas A&M University
- Minnesota Missing Children Cases: Learning From Our Past, Alison Feigh - Jacob Wetterling Resource Center (Zero Abuse Project)

A HSEM certification course:

- PDS 0242 - Effective Communication (4hrs)

AMEM Exercises/Workshops

- Animal Planning Workshop-Create a New Plan or Update Your Existing Plan. (4rs)
  - AMEM Tabletop Exercise – Curb Your Debris
- and twenty-seven timely and informative breakout sessions

We are glad you are with us as we celebrate our emergency management professional community in Minnesota. Please let our Executive Director or Board Members know if we can be of any help in making this conference a positive and enjoyable experience.

Erin Hughes  
Stearns County  
AMEM President

Kristen Tschida  
Conference Chair  
AMEM First Vice President  
And Conference Chair

# AMEM greatly appreciates the generous support of our Conference Sponsors.

## Platinum Sponsor



## Gold Sponsors



## Silver Sponsors



## Bronze Sponsors



# Continuing Education Credits

**Pick up your Post Credit Form for Law Enforcement and Fire Personnel Continuing Education form at the Registration Desk.**

## **Total Possible Credits - 11**

### ***Police***

The Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers is a continuing education sponsor as approved by the Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training. This conference, Course #10337-0010, has been approved by the POST Board for continuing education credit. Peace officers who successfully complete this course can receive up to 11 Hours of continuing education credits.

The Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers (AMEM), in accordance with applicable Federal and State law and AMEM policy, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer related or genetic characteristics), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or service in the uniformed services. The Association also prohibits sexual harassment.

The Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers has a written policy for the investigation and resolution of allegations of classroom discrimination. This policy applies to all faculty, instructors, administrative staff, and students. A copy of the policy may be obtained from the Association by contacting the Executive Director, John Strongitharm, at amem-ed@charter.net or at 218-626-7930.

### ***Fire***

The Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers is a continuing education sponsor for Firefighter Continuing Education. Firefighters who successfully complete courses can receive continuing education credits towards the licensing of firefighters in the State of Minnesota. All credits must be approved by your Fire Chief as continuing education. If your Chief needs more information, Contact John Strongitharm, Executive Director

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# Important Conference Information

## Dining Package Information

Breezy Point Management came to the conference committee with concerns about the number of attendees that were being served meals. The number served exceeded the number of registrants that had paid for the dining package. This made it difficult to ensure all paid attendees received their meal.

To address this issue, AMEM agreed to educate the attendees about the dining program. Dining can be purchased two ways. If you are staying at Breezy Point Resort, your room includes the meal package (Most attendees have this package). If you are a commuter or are staying off the resort property and want to eat at Breezy Resort, you will need to purchase meal tickets from Breezy Point Registration Desk. If you have a guest with you, their meal is not included in the room price and you must purchase them a meal ticket. Commuter and guest meal packages do not include Breakfast. If you want breakfast that can be paid for separately.

To help better manage the meal program we have implemented the following dining rules. Attendees will need to have their nametag on for all meals **(INCLUDING the BANQUET)**. It will be checked before you are served. The name tags will identify people who have purchased the dining package. If you are staying offsite or are a commuter, you can purchase meal tickets from Breezy Point and present them in the serving line.

For 95% of the attendees, nothing has changed from the past conferences except you need to wear your nametag to be served. If you have any questions about the meal package, please contact the AMEM registration desk.

## The Banquet

The Conference Committee reads through and appreciates conference feedback received each year. Changes to the banquet were made in 2021 in response to feedback and it was well received. Additional changes are being made in response to attendees' feedback for this upcoming banquet.

The awards will again be presented during the banquet. The presentation will be efficient and last no more than thirty minutes of the banquet. The dress code is casual. The AMEM Conference Committee appreciates feedback received from attendees as we work to ensure the AMEM banquet is a time of enjoyment, networking and recognizing the great work done by our peers.

## Online Conference Schedule QR Code



# Conference Schedule

## ***Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024***

9:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.	AMEM Board Meeting	Governors
12:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.	Conference Registration	Lobby
12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Pre-Conference Golf Tournament & Golf Awards	Whitebirch Golf
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	<b>HSEM Cert Course:</b>	Heartland 1&2
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	<b>Workshop</b>	Pelican
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	<b>Dinner</b>	Dockside
7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	New Attendee Welcome	Lakeside A & B
8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.	Bonfire	Beachside

## ***Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024***

6:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	<b>Breakfast</b>	Marina II
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Registration	Lobby
8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	Opening Ceremonies - Posting of the Colors by Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Veterans	Whitebirch
9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.	<b>General Session:</b>	
10:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	<b>Break</b>	Minnesota
10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.	<b>Special Remarks</b>	Whitebirch
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bob Jacobson, Commissioner of Minnesota Dept. of Public Safety</li> <li>• Kristi Rollwagen, Director of Minnesota Division of HSEM</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	
11:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	AMEM Annual Meeting	Whitebirch
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.	<b>Lunch &amp; Vendor Show</b>	Minnesota
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.	<b>Breakout Sessions</b>	
	1.	Governors
	2.	Heartland III
	3.	Pelican
	4.	Heartland I & II
	5.	Lakeside B
	6.	Heartland IV
	7.	Whitebirch
2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	<b>Afternoon Break and Exhibitor Show</b>	Minnesota
2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	<b>Breakout Sessions</b>	
	1.	Governors
	2.	Heartland III
	3.	Pelican
	4.	Heartland I & II
	5.	Lakeside B
	6.	Heartland IV
	7.	Whitebirch
3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	AMEM Presidents Forum	Whitebirch
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	<b>Dinner</b>	Minnesota
7:00p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	<b>AMEM Bingo Night</b>	Lakeside A & B

## ***Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024***

6:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	<b>Breakfast</b>	Marina II
9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.	<b>General Session -</b>	
10:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.	<b>Morning Break and Vendor Show</b>	Minnesota
10:45 a.m. to 11:45 p.m.	<b>Breakout Sessions</b>	
	1.	Governors
	2.	Pelican
	3	Lakeside B
	4.	Lakeside A
	5.	Heartland III
	6.	Heartland IV
	7. `	Heartland I & II
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.	<b>Lunch &amp; Vendor Show</b>	Minnesota
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.	<b>Breakout Sessions</b>	
	1.	Governors
	2.	Pelican
	3	Lakeside B
	4.	Lakeside A
	5.	Heartland III
	6.	Heartland IV
	7. `	Heartland I & II
2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	<b>Afternoon Break and Exhibitor Show</b>	Minnesota
2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	<b>AMEM Regional Meetings</b>	
	Region 1	Heartland I
	Region 2	Heartland II
	Region 3	Pontoon or Heartland III
	Region 4	Heartland IV
	Region 5	Governors
	Region 6	Pelican
5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	<b>Social Hour</b>	Whitebirch
6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	<b>Networking Awards Dinner and Entertainment (Casual Dress)</b>	Whitebirch

## ***Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024***

6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.	<b>Breakfast</b>	Marina II
9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.	<b>General Session</b>	
10:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	<b>Break</b>	<b>Whitebirch</b>
10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.	<b>General Session</b>	
11:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	<b>Closing Remarks: Past President and Newly Elected President</b>	Whitebirch
12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.	<b>AMEM Conference Hotwash (Conference Committee Members)</b>	Water's Edge

# ***Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers***

## ***63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference***

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***Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024***

<b>9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.</b>	<b>AMEM Quarterly Board Meeting</b>	<b>Governors</b>
<b>12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Conference Registration</b>	<b>Lobby</b>
<b>12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Pre-Conference Golf Tournament</b> <b>(Prizes to be awarded at tournament)</b>	<b>Whitebirch Links</b>

<b>1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>HSEM Cert Class - PDS-0242 Effective Communication Heartland 1&amp;2</b>
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**Amber Schindeldecker, Public Information Officer for the Emergency Communication Networks division and the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division** This course is designed to address public speaking, dissemination of public information, communication during crisis situations, and how to deal effectively with the news media. The intent is to provide each emergency manager with the basic skills that are needed to be successful in his/her position. **PREREQUISITE: IS-242.b Effective Communication**  
**Learning Objectives: At the end of this session, participants should be able to:**

- **Learn how you fit** into the public information cycle, even if you aren't a public information officer.
- Learn about the common tools and tactics used in communicating effectively during an emergency.
- Learn about message mapping techniques that will assist your spokespeople in conducting successful interviews.

<b>1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Animal Planning Workshop-Create a New Plan or Update Your Existing Plan</b>	<b>Pelican</b>
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**Instructor: Kathy Jorgensen, Minnesota Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps (MNVMRC)**

The MNVMRC will present an introduction and overview of current resources, capabilities and identified gaps in animal planning. Following that there will be an open discussion by having emergency management bring their own animal plans to the workshop and network with the animal resources and each other to create new plans or update existing plans. We will finish the workshop with an animal sheltering tabletop exercise.

**Learning Objectives: At the end of this session, participants should be able to:**

- Identify current resources and capabilities for animal events available in Minnesota.
- Identify and network with groups that provide animal resources and understand how these groups may augment a response.
- Learn how to identify gaps/needs and how to fill those needs in a tabletop exercise while working with state, regional and local partners and VOAD groups to solve the issues and examples in the exercise.

## **Sunday September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Continued**

<b>3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Breezy Point Room Registration Opens</b>	<b>Lobby</b>
<b>5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Audit Committee Meeting</b>	<b>Governors</b>
<b>6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Dinner</b>	<b>Dockside</b>
<b>7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.</b>	<b>New Attendee Welcome</b>	<b>Lakeside A&amp;B</b>
<b>8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Bonfire</b> 	<b>Beach</b>

### **Attending your first AMEM Conference?**

Please attend the New Attendee Welcome in the Lakeside A & B rooms at 7:00pm. Learn how to find your way around the conference center, get the most out of the conference, and make new contacts.

### **Our Goal**

Our goal is to provide the highest quality training and networking. During your downtime, we hope you will enjoy the many amenities at Breezy Point. With your room reservation you have paid green fees on the Traditional and Whitebirch Golf Courses, Indoor Pool, Tennis Courts, Beaches, Nightly Campfire, Pontoon boats and Fishing Boats with Motors.

## **Conference Schedule**



## **Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

<b>6:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Breakfast</b>	<b>Marina II</b>
<b>7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Registration</b>	<b>Lobby</b>
<b>8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Opening Ceremonies</b>	<b>Whitebirch</b>

***Welcome and Announcements*** – Erin Hughes, Stearns County 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. and Conference Chair

***Posting of the Colors by Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Veterans***

***Welcome and Introductions*** – Blain Johnson, Lac Qui Parle County, AMEM President

<b>9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Menominee Michigan Warehouse Fire, a 16-day multi-agency response with a lot of takeaways</b>	<b>Whitebirch</b>
<b>David Morrison - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency</b>		

On Thursday, October 6th, 2022, a papermill and waterfront warehouse caught on fire. The fire spread throughout the warehouse and contaminant runoff management and air monitoring became a large component of the response. Fire Fighting runoff into the river and Green Bay threatened the drinking water supplies for the Cities of Menominee, MI and Marinette, WI. EPA will discuss how its Incident Management team helped to support a large Unified Command effort and JIC.

**Learning Objectives: At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:**

- Awareness of and focus on integration of fire and public health/environmental response elements as early as possible. Transitioning to UC is critical for incidents affecting more than one state and several state, local, and private organizations.
- Data Management and timely data sharing with UC, public officials, and the public can be a heavy lift. Bringing in the right GIS horsepower makes it possible.
- An inclusive and effective JIC can be a heavy lift. Sustained participation from all agencies is critical to its success.
- Notifications. Fires are more than fire management when it comes to a successful response, requesting an IMT helps stakeholders to get included in the discussions and decisions.
- Your EOC may not be the EOC. A water treatment plant offered up meeting space, rooms and hallways for a three-week invasion. Is your EOC open to hosting an invasion?

<b>10:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>Minnesota</b>
<b>10:45 a.m. to 11:25 a.m.</b>	<b>Special Remarks</b> DPS Commissioner Bob Jacobson HSEM Director, Kristi Rollwagen Fire Marshal Office, John Kreuser IAEM Representative, Ryan Wilkinson	<b>Whitebirch</b>
<b>11:25 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Annual Meeting. President Blain Johnson, Presiding</b>	<b>Whitebirch</b>
<b>12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Lunch &amp; Vendor Show</b>	<b>Minnesota</b>

## **Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Continued**

**1:00 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.**

### **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

#### ***1. Minnesota National Guard 101***

***Governors***

**Instructors: Lieutenant Colonel Eric Athman, Minnesota Army National Guard.**

An overview of the Minnesota National Guard and the Minnesota Department of Military Affairs. The overview will include a review of the organization, a description of planning factors, the process for activation of the National Guard, a listing of the assets that the Minnesota Guard maintains, and an overall Q&A session with National Guard members.

**Learning Objectives: *At the end of this session, participants should be able to:***

- Understand the composition of the Minnesota National Guard
- Understand the process for activation and the timelines associated with activation
- Understand the relationship between the National Guard command and control with respect to the Incident Command.

#### ***2. Communications PACE Planning for Emergency Managers***

***Heartland III***

**Instructor: Dan Anderson, Hennepin County Emergency Management**

This session will teach Emergency Managers the fundamentals of communications PACE planning and to get them to think how they can use PACE planning when developing EOC and COOP plans and procedures. Following a presentation, attendees will spend time on a tool that will help them determine their primary, alternate, contingency, and emergency communications pathways.

**Learning Objectives: *At the conclusion of this session, participants will:***

- Understand the difference between voice and data communications, to include knowledge of different systems and tools at an emergency manager's disposal.
- Learn what primary, alternate, contingency, and emergency communications are.
- Formulate ideas about what communications pathways are needed for each primary, alternate, contingency, and emergency communications (with an emphasis on providing PACE in an EOC environment).
- Show how PACE planning can be done in less-populated counties and with modest means.
- Demonstrate how PACE planning is important for Continuity of Operations planning.
- Acquaint attendees with a worksheet and template they can use to begin building their EOC PACE Plan

#### ***3. Tall Ships of America in Lake County: Large Events in Rural Counties Best Practices***

***Pelican***

**Instructors: Matt Pollmann, Lake County Emergency Management**

In August of 2022, the city of Two Harbors and Lake County hosted the Tall Ships America event. With a town of just over 3,000 and anticipated crowds reaching 100,000 people, the preparation and execution of the event were laborious. We want to share best practices and lessons learned from hosting this event to help other rural areas successfully be able to host significant events.

**Learning Objectives: *At the conclusion of this session, participants will have an understand:***

- Understand how to prepare for large events with limited resources
- Collaborate with stakeholders and bring in additional help
- List of action items to consider from preparation to post-event

**4. Growth After Trauma: Prepare Now So You Are Ready Later**

**Heartland I&II**

**Instructor: Gwen Martin, Cottage Grove Police Department**

On November 4, 2019, Captain Gwen Martin—a 19-year veteran of the Cottage Grove Police Department who also serves as the city's Emergency Manager—was in an officer-involved shooting (OIS) in Cottage Grove, MN. As more and more law enforcement professionals are assuming emergency management responsibilities, the potential for similar situations to occur in the future is increasing. This case study presentation includes a first-hand account of an OIS with audio and video, reviews the importance of utilizing mental health resources for involved personnel, and provides insight into post-traumatic growth, defined as positive psychological changes that occur as a result of the struggle with trauma

**Learning Objectives: At the conclusion of this session, participants will:**

- Understand the dynamics of an officer-involved shooting and what to expect should one occur within your community.
- Understand the post-traumatic stress response and the importance of using mental health resources for involved responders, including mandatory annual neck up checkups for public safety personnel.
- Understand post-traumatic growth and how it can enhance recovery and increase resiliency for affected personnel.
- Understand strategies to prepare organizations for a critical incident and/or a disaster that involves top leadership.

**5. Yes, it can get worse – Train Derailment**

**Lakeside B**

**Instructor: Arden Kopischke, Lyon County Iowa Emergency Management**

My presentation will describe step by step actions and response to having 200,000 gallons of Canadian crude oil dumped into flood waters by a train derailment and show how Emergency Management fit into the response.

**Learning Objectives: At the conclusion of this session, participants will understand:**

- Dealing with a large hazmat spill with small volunteer fire departments.
- Initiating incident command and changing over to unified command after multiple agencies and over 250 people were involved.
- Dealing with public understanding when contaminated crop land was caused by the spill.
- Initiating a PIO to deal with local & national media.
- Dealing with the compounding & changing events that developed and followed the spill.

**6. Missing Murdered Indigenous Relatives Office: Stronger Together**

**Heartland IV**

**Instructors: Ana Negrete & Kayley Sansom, Department of Public Safety's Missing Murdered Indigenous Relatives Office.**

This presentation will introduce the newly expanded Missing Murdered indigenous relative office and provide the participants with a base knowledge of the office creation and services and supports available through our office as well as the importance of collaborative effort

**Learning Objectives: At the conclusion of this session, participants will:**

- Understand the rationale for the creation of the Missing Murdered Indigenous Relatives Office.
- Understand the various roles of the staff within the office and who to connect with for ongoing needs related to those roles.
- Understand the importance of collaborative work with MMIR and emergency management providers as a form of community engagement in addressing MMIR epidemic.
- Understand resources connected with the MMIR office including protocol development, pilot search kits toolkit, ongoing training opportunities and data dashboard opportunities.

## **Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Continued**

### **7. AMEM Tabletop Exercise - Curb Your Debris**

**Whitebirch**

**Instructors: Kristen Tschida, Emergency Manager Benton County and Members of the Professional Development Committee**

This tabletop exercise will discuss the plan, roles, and actions of Minnesota emergency management personnel in regard to a simulated disaster in which communities in all regions of the state suffer the major impacts of a massive severe weather event.

**Learning Objectives. Participants will**

- Discuss how their emergency management priorities shift as the incident moves from the response phase to recovery.
- Identify and discuss key aspects of recovery planning in both the short-term and long-term.
- Identify and discuss other whole-community impacts and concerns of the recovery phase.

**2:15 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Afternoon Break and Vendor Show**

**Minnesota**

**3:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

### **1. Minnesota National Guard 101**

**Governors**

**Instructors: Lieutenant Colonel Eric Athman, Minnesota Army National Guard.**

An overview of the Minnesota National Guard and the Minnesota Department of Military Affairs. The overview will include a review of the organization, a description of planning factors, the process for activation of the National Guard, a listing of the assets that the Minnesota Guard maintains, and an overall Q&A session with National Guard members.

**Learning Objectives: *At the end of this session, participants should be able to:***

- Understand the composition of the Minnesota National Guard
- Understand the process for activation and the timelines associated with activation
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## **Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Continued**

### ***3. Tall Ships of America in Lake County: Large Events in Rural Counties Best Practices***

***Pelican***

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#### **Learning Objectives: At the conclusion of this session, participants will have an understand:**

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### ***4. Growth After Trauma: Prepare Now So You Are Ready Later***

***Heartland I&II***

#### **Instructor: Gwen Martin, Cottage Grove Police Department**

On November 4, 2019, Captain Gwen Martin—a 19-year veteran of the Cottage Grove Police Department who also serves as the city's Emergency Manager—was in an officer-involved shooting (OIS) in Cottage Grove, MN. As more and more law enforcement professionals are assuming emergency management responsibilities, the potential for similar situations to occur in the future is increasing. This case study presentation includes a first-hand account of an OIS with audio and video, reviews the importance of utilizing mental health resources for involved personnel, and provides insight into post-traumatic growth, defined as positive psychological changes that occur as a result of the struggle with trauma

#### **Learning Objectives: At the conclusion of this session, participants will:**

- Understand the dynamics of an officer-involved shooting and what to expect should one occur within your community.
- Understand the post-traumatic stress response and the importance of using mental health resources for involved responders, including mandatory annual neck up checkups for public safety personnel.
- Understand post-traumatic growth and how it can enhance recovery and increase resiliency for affected personnel.
- Understand strategies to prepare organizations for a critical incident and/or a disaster that involves top leadership.

### ***5. Yes, it can get worse – Train Derailment***

***Lakeside B***

#### **Instructor: Arden Kopischke, Lyon County Iowa Emergency Management**

My presentation will describe step by step actions and response to having 200,000 gallons of Canadian crude oil dumped into flood waters by a train derailment and show how Emergency Management fit into the response.

#### **Learning Objectives: At the conclusion of this session, participants will understand:**

- Dealing with a large hazmat spill with small volunteer fire departments.
- Initiating incident command and changing over to unified command after multiple agencies and over 250 people were involved.
- Dealing with public understanding when contaminated crop land was caused by the spill.
- Initiating a PIO to deal with local & national media.
- Dealing with the compounding & changing events that developed and followed the spill.

## **Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Continued**

### **6. Outdoor Warning Siren Best Practice Recommendations & Educational Tools    Heartland IV**

**Instructors:** Bryan Savaloja, Wadena County Sheriff's Office, Eric Waage, Hennepin County, and Julie Anderson, Douglas County

Review of the updates to the AMEM Outdoor Warning Siren Best Practice Recommendations and overview of educational opportunities for working with local officials and the public on siren education.

**Learning Objectives: At the conclusion of this session, participants will understand:**

**Best Practice Document:**

- Public Warning System, Sire Use Principles, Siren Operations – Activations, and Siren Operations – Test and Drills

**Education:**

- Internal Audiences, Importance of Education, External Audiences, Platforms for Information Sharing
- Templates, Policies, Campaigns

### **7. AMEM Tabletop Exercise - Curb Your Debris**

**Whitebirch**

**Instructors:** Kristen Tschida, Emergency Manager Benton County and Members of the Professional Development Committee

This tabletop exercise will discuss the plan, roles, and actions of Minnesota emergency management personnel in regard to a simulated disaster in which communities in all regions of the state suffer the major impacts of a massive severe weather event.

**Learning Objectives. Participants will**

- Discuss how their emergency management priorities shift as the incident moves from the response phase to recovery.
- Identify and discuss key aspects of recovery planning in both the short-term and long-term.
- Identify and discuss other whole-community impacts and concerns of the recovery phase.

**4:30 p.m. to 6:00p.m.**

**AMEM Presidents Forum**

**Blain Johnson, AMEM President**

**Whitebirch**

This session provides the opportunity for AMEM Members and Emergency Managers to meet and discuss current programs, initiatives, and issues of common interest to their local jurisdictions and agencies. A light agenda will be provided to guide a relaxed and roundtable-type discussion; propelled by conversation around the room. Participants are encouraged to bring up topics of concern or interest to them.

**Learning Objectives: At the end of this session, participants should be able to:**

- Achieve a better understanding and appreciation of local EM Programs and ongoing projects and discussions on a statewide basis.
- Share successes, challenges, and improvement items affecting local EM programs, AMEM, and state agency counterparts.
- Obtain shared ideas of how your peers meet current challenges of emergency management, and initiate plans, programs, trainings, and exercises to enhance local departments.
- Discuss broad EM issues and strategize future priorities for Emergency Management in Minnesota.

**6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

**Dinner**

**Minnesota**

**7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**



**Lakeside A-B**

## **Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**6:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.**

**Breakfast**

**Marina II**

**9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.**

**GENERAL SESSION**

**Whitebirch**

***What Minnesota's Changing Climate means for Weather  
Disasters and Emergencies***

**Kenneth Blumenfeld, Minnesota Climtoogy Office, DNR**

Minnesota's climate has already become warmer, though so far without a notable "worsening" of extreme heat conditions. We have gotten wetter on average, and communities across the state have faced an unmistakable trend toward greater precipitation and snowfall extremes. Virtually all climate projections indicate that more changes are coming, with continued increases in episodic precipitation extremes and the eventual arrival of rare, or even unprecedented summertime heat events. This presentation will detail observed and projected climate changes in Minnesota, with particular emphasis on which hazardous weather phenomena are and are not changing or expected to change.

**Learning Objectives: At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:**

- Discuss Minnesota's existing points of climate and weather vulnerability
- Describe the differences between climate trends (persistent or predominant changes), and climate variability (regular ups and downs)
- Describe how, when, and where Minnesota's climate is changing the most
- Demonstrate how climate trends and variability can and will work together to produce unprecedented extremes in Minnesota, especially for rainfall, but increasingly for heat events as well

**10:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Morning Break and Vendor Show**

**Minnesota**

**10:45 p.m. to 12:00 p.m. BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

***1. Overview of the Medical Examiner and Coroner System in Minnesota***

***Governors***

**Instructor: Shane Sheets, Midwest Medical Examiner's Office**

This presentation focuses on the existing medical examiner/coroner ME/C system in Minnesota, the medicolegal death investigation process and how the work performed impacts the community.

**Learning Objectives: At the conclusion of this session, participants will:**

- Understand the difference between medical examiner and coroner in MN.
- Understand the overall medicolegal death investigation process.
- Understand how death investigation impacts your community.

**2. AARs reveal a trend of declining use of NIMS in major incidents in the Twin Cities.**

***Pelican***

**Instructor: Eric Waage, Hennepin County Emergency Management**

A vital principle, unchanged since the earliest days of emergency management, holds that “the single most crucial aspect of effective emergency management is making sure before a disaster occurs that in a disaster the responsibility, authority, and channels of communication are clearly delineated.” Emergency managers must bear responsibility to “ensure that someone is ‘in charge’ and that that person has access to the resources, skills, and knowledge necessary to manage the situation effectively” (Drabek and Hoetmer, 1991). This foundational idea was born out of the same response chaos that also resulted in the creation of the Incident Command System and much later, the National Incident Management System. ICS/NIMS are part of the same basic and effective command and coordination system that, when ignored, is the frequent and preventable cause of response problems and failures. One needs only to look at the tragedy of the Uvalde, Texas school shooting response (2022) to realize that failure to properly use ICS/NIMS continues to be a persistent and deadly problem across the nation.

A review of publicly available After-Action Reviews from the Twin Cities Metro Area over the past 15 years reveals that following an impressive early adoption of ICS/NIMS, there has been a steady erosion in the ability of differing functions, professions and jurisdictions to come together to effectively manage major incidents. This trend highlights the importance of respecting the fundamentals of ICS/NIMS through ongoing training and exercise as leaders and staff come and go. ICS/NIMS is not a self-sustaining system. It requires work and leader emphasis to be available and effective when urgently needed.

**Learning Objectives: *At the conclusion of this session, participants will have an understand:***

- Understand the typical consequences when NIMS is ignored.
- Understand emergency management’s responsibility to develop and support the structure of incident command and management across their jurisdictions
- Understand the importance of ongoing training and exercise in ICS/NIMS

**3. The Southern and Western Minnesota Blizzard of Dec 22-24, 2022: Lessons Learned in Weather and Emergency Management.**

***Lakeside B***

**Instructors: Todd Krause, NWS, Rich Hall of Freeborn County, and Tim Martin, SFC MNNG IA**

A complicated winter storm brought snow, high winds, and dangerous cold to southern and western Minnesota just before Christmas 2022. Communicating the various hazards and timing was difficult. As the storm intensified, numerous calls led to many rescues and sheltered travelers. Lessons learned include documentation of locations and types of vehicles which became important for towing vehicles, pre-planning of rescues and sheltering, prioritizing calls and rescues, and better messaging of a lengthy complex storm, including the dangers of ground blizzards.

**Learning Objectives: *At the end of this session, participants will:***

- To foster improved situational awareness and messaging of winter storms and other hazards through a better understanding of NWS warnings and forecasts.
- To describe NWS decision support, especially in advance of storms.
- To highlight issues relating to pre-planning of rescues and sheltering, prioritizing calls and rescues, and documentation of locations and types of vehicles for towing purposes.

## **Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024– Continued**

### **4. Things the Federal Aviation Administration Need Emergency Managers to Know Lakeside A**

**Instructors: Paul Janke, FAA and Nick Halatsis, Retired Marine Officer**

This class will provide you with an overview of the FAA Overview & MN Structure, Accidents (Crash Scene & Incidents), Notice to Airmen & Temporary Flight Rules, Drones/Unmanned Aerial Systems, Helicopters (Air Ambulances, and Mass Helium Balloon Release

**Learning Objectives: *At the end of this session, attendees will understand:***

- Overview of the Federal Aviation Administration
- Organizational Overview and Local Minnesota Structure
- Agency local points of contact
- Current topics public safety officials should be aware of Everyday Situations and Emergency Response Situations

### **5. Tornadoes and Taxes, Process to Abate Property Taxes in Disaster Area Heartland III**

**Instructors: Julie Anderson - Douglas County EM, Stacy Honkomp – Douglas County Assessor Vicki Doehling – Douglas County Auditor/Treasurer**

In May of 2022, Douglas County had 48 destroyed homes and 132 with major damage following two tornadoes. In this session, learn how emergency managers must coordinate with their county assessor and auditor-treasurer to conduct damage assessments, contact the Department of Revenue and apply for property tax abatement. This session will also cover how to reach out to homeowners to encourage them to apply for this abatement, and how to explain the process to the county board.

**Learning Objectives: *At the end of this session, participants should understand:***

- Why it's beneficial to apply to the state for property tax abatement
- How to successfully apply for the abatement
- How to communicate with elected officials about the benefits (cities, county will not lose out on much needed property taxes)
- How to successfully communicate with residents who must apply for this credit.

### **6. MNVOAD: Voluntary Organizations Heartland IV**

**Instructors: Ryc Lyden, MNVOAD President and Major Michele Heaver, Divisional Disaster Services Secretary**

The presentation will take the attendee through an introduction to what is a volunteer; when and how to request MNVOAD assistance; the conference and coordination calls; what intel you can get from the field; use of the MNVOAD Field Operations Teams; what your jurisdiction needs in order to prepare for volunteers.

**Learning Objectives: *At the conclusion of this session, participants will:***

- Understand what the voluntary organizations can offer
- Know how to request assistance from MNVOAD
- How to create local relationships with volunteer groups
- What to expect out of a conference and coordination call

## **Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024– Continued**

### **7. Outdoor Warning Siren Best Practice Recommendation and Educational Tools** **Heartland I&II**

**Instructors:** Bryan Savaloja, Wadena County Sheriff's Office, Eric Hughes, Stearns

Review of the updates to the AMEM Outdoor Warning Siren Best Practice Recommendations and overview of educational opportunities for working with local officials and the public on siren education.

**Learning Objectives:** *At the conclusion of this session, participants will understand:*

**Best Practice Document:**

- Public Warning System, Sire Use Principles, Siren Operations – Activations, and Siren Operations – Test and Drills

**Education:**

- Internal Audiences, Importance of Education, External Audiences, Platforms for Information Sharing
- Templates, Policies, Campaigns

**12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Lunch & Vendor Show**

**Minnesota**

**1:00 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

### **1. Overview of the Medical Examiner and Coroner System in Minnesota** **Governors**

**Instructor:** Shane Sheets, Midwest Medical Examiner's Office

This presentation focuses on the existing medical examiner/coroner ME/C system in Minnesota, the medicolegal death investigation process and how the work performed impacts the community.

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- Understand the importance of ongoing training and exercise in ICS/NIMS

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***Lakeside B***

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**Learning Objectives: At the conclusion of this session, participants will:**

- Understand what the voluntary organizations can offer
- Know how to request assistance from MNVOAD
- How to create local relationships with volunteer groups
- What to expect out of a conference and coordination call

***7. Minnesota Sovereign Nation Forum (Tribes Only)***

***Heartland I&II***

**Instructor: Dan DeSmet, Upper Sioux Police**

The breakout session is for tribal Representatives to meet as a group and discuss current and upcoming issues of interest to tribal members.

**Learning Objectives: At the conclusion of this session, participants will:**

- Discuss current and upcoming issues that impact the Sovereign Nation Members.
- Participate in networking with Tribes across the State.

***Tuesday, September 17th, 2024– Continued***

<b>2:15 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Afternoon Break and Vendor Show</b>	<b>Minnesota</b>
<b>3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.</b>	<b>AMEM Regional Meetings</b>	
	<b>Region 1</b>	<b>Heartland I</b>
	<b>Region 2</b>	<b>Heartland II</b>
	<b>Region 3</b>	<b>Pontoon or Heartland III</b>
	<b>Region 4</b>	<b>Heartland IV</b>
	<b>Region 5</b>	<b>Governors</b>
	<b>Region 6</b>	<b>Pelican</b>

<b>5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Social Half Hour</b>	<b>Whitebirch</b>
<b>6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Awards Banquet &amp; Dinner</b>	<b>Whitebirch</b>
<b>The Annual AMEM Awards will be presented at this event, followed by dinner, music, and networking.</b>		

<b>8:00pm – 11:00pm</b>	<b>Bonfire</b>		<b>Beach</b>
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## **Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.**

**Breakfast**

**Marina II**

**8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.**

**GENERAL SESSION**

**Whitebirch**

***Is My Career Killing Me?***

***Jeff Dyar, B.S. NREMT-P, EFO, Texas A&M University***

Jeff Dyar will present a personal perspective in the deadly and disabling effects of critical post-traumatic stress injuries that affect all Emergency Management practitioners. With many decades of experience as a First Responder and Emergency Manager, Jeff will chronicle his personal experiences with Post-traumatic Injuries and his recovery from their life-threatening effects. This session will present the latest research on Post Traumatic Stress and how to manage it as an individual and a leader.

**Learning Objectives: At the end of this session, you will be able to:**

- Define Post-traumatic stress injuries and compare with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Explain the events and processes that lead to post-traumatic injuries in the Human Brain
- Discuss resources available to individuals and organizations for managing Critical Stress Injuries.

**10:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.**

**Morning Break**

**Whitebirch Lobby**

**10:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.**

**GENERAL SESSION**

**Whitebirch**

***Minnesota Missing Children Cases: Learning From Our Past***  
***Alison Feigh - Jacob Wetterling Resource Center***  
***(Zero Abuse Project)***

Minnesota has had its share of high-profile missing child cases. Each case has brought its own challenges for the dedicated law enforcement officers working to find resolution for families and the community. This presentation uses case examples to show how far we have come in responding to missing children and how the past has helped to direct current efforts in case management

**Learning Objectives: At the end of this session, you will be able to:**

- Explain Legacy Laws and how they can be helpful or harmful to other victim families.
- Describe what a parallel investigation is and why they are used in missing child investigations.
- Critique the positive changes in the missing child advocacy movement and what steps should come next.

**11:45 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.**

**Closing Remarks**

**Whitebirch**

**12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

**Conference Hotwash (Board Members)**

**WatersEdge**

***Save the Date - September 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025.***

***Breezy Point Resort***

# EMERGENCY ALERTS: WHY EARLY WARNING IS YOUR BEST PROTECTION



## EMERGENCY ALERTS ARE ESSENTIAL:

In natural disasters like hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, and wildfires or emergencies due to nuclear/chemical threats, you need to know the latest information immediately and automatically. Emergency alerts help you make lifesaving decisions.



**TORNADOES:** Up to 70 deaths and thousands of injuries per year.



**HURRICANES:** 95% of all intense hurricane activity occurs from August to October.



**FLOODS:** 90% of all natural disasters have some form of flooding.



**WILDFIRES:** Are increasing every year with longer and hotter seasons.



**THUNDERSTORMS:** Serious threat to life and property to those in the path of the storm.



**EARTHQUAKES:** Pose a significant risk to people and can occur any time of the year.

## THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF ALERTS:

The Gold Standard: NOAA Weather Radios (NWR) provide the most and reliable and quickest alert system. These alerts are instant and come directly from the National Weather Service and your local Emergency Manager.



### WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERTS

Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)- Mobile devices like your cellphone receive these short messages from cell towers. However, you must make sure to select the correct settings on your phone, and the cell tower must be operating.



Emergency Alert System (EAS)- These are the alerts you see on your TV. You won't get these alerts when streaming services or if your TV is off. Most TVs can not operate during power outages.



Mobile Phone Apps- Apps and reverse 911 calls can be delayed by minutes or hours if cell towers are overloaded.



Outdoor warning sirens are for warning you when you are already outdoors.



Cellphone coverage can fall during a disaster. Cell towers might not get power from the system's battery backup, meaning cellphone data and information clogs.

## HOW TO RECEIVE ALERTS:



- The most reliable way to receive alerts is through a NOAA Weather Radio.
- You can receive over 60 different emergency alerts on these radios, even during power outages.
- You can receive alerts on your phone, but cell towers could get overwhelmed or destroyed.
- Have multiple, redundant methods of receiving alerts, including "The voice of the National Weather Service", NOAA Weather Radio. Nothing is Faster!

# AMEM's Conference Planning Committee

**The AMEM Board of Directors would like to thank the AMEM Conference Planning Committee for its vision, commitment, and dedication in preparing for the 2024 AMEM Fall Training Conference.**

## Committee Members

- First Vice President and Conference Chair – Kristen Tschida, Benton County
- President – Erin Hughes, Stearns County
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President-
- Past President – Blain Johnson, , Lac Qui Parle County
- Executive Director – John Strongitharm

Amy Bramwell	Region 1 Rep	Lynn Siegel	Region 4 Rep
Mike Keyport	Region 2 Rep	Shawn Stoermann	Region 5 Rep
Ed Snetsinger	Region 3 Rep	Kelly Miller	Region 6 Rep
Daniel DeSmet	Tribal Representative	Kim Flanagan	Prairie Island
Breanna Koval	Secretary	Kristen Sailer	Treasurer
Tawn Hall	Judge Advocate	Micki Klomp	HSEM
Jennifer Lindberg	HSEM	Angela Packer	HSEM

## Conference Schedule





# You put your community first. We put you first.

FirstNet, Built with AT&T is a proud Gold Sponsor of the 62nd annual Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers conference.

With FirstNet, you have access to:



**Enhanced coverage** – FirstNet now covers more first responders than any other network.



**Always-on 24/7 priority** and, for first responders, preemption capabilities with multiple priority levels – when and where you need it.



**Affordable rate plans** and industry-leading devices with advanced features.



**Support for your disaster response** with a dedicated Response Operations Group and dedicated deployable assets



**A dedicated Security Operations Center** to monitor the network for physical and cyber threats

FirstNet is designed for every first responder in the country – career or volunteer; city, state, tribal or federal; and urban, suburban or rural.



Scan to learn more about the  
**advantages of FirstNet** and  
**see if you're eligible.**

# Special Guest Speakers

## **Bob Jacobson, Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety**

Bob Jacobson was appointed the 15th commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety by Gov. Tim Walz in January 2023.

Prior to his appointment, Jacobson served as the interim deputy assistant commissioner in the Department of Human Services. Previously, he served for more than 33 years in active law enforcement including 16 years as the director of public safety/chief of police for the City of New Brighton where he led their police, fire, and emergency management operations. He also served as interim police chief for the City of Stillwater during a leadership transition.

Jacobson also served as the interim inspector general for the Department of Human Services. He served as the professional development director for the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association, coordinating and implementing statewide and regional training and conferences for the Association. Jacobson has a B.A. from Bethel University in Organizational Leadership and attended the Senior Management Institute for Police conducted by the Police Executive Research Forum.



## **Kristin Rollwagen, Minnesota Department of Public Safety, HSEM Director**

Kristi Rollwagen has been the director of the Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) division since May 2023. Before this appointment, Rollwagen spent 13 years as the manager of emergency programs for the Metropolitan Airports Commission at the Minneapolis- Saint Paul international Airport. In this position she administered the Airport Emergency Plan and the Continuity of Operations Plan, executing training and exercises that tested the airport's emergency response readiness. She also managed all of the airport internal exercise.

Rollwagen previously worked as the HSEM grant program administrator and the Statewide Hazardous Materials Response Teams coordinator with the State Fire Marshal Division from 1992 to 2002. Prior to her time at the Department of Public Safety, Rollwagen spent 15 years in the fire service, starting as a firefighter in the Mankato Fire Department in 1995. She then joined the Minneapolis Fire Department as captain. Rollwagen was promoted to deputy chief of emergency preparedness and rose to the role of interim assistant chief in 2007. She served in Minneapolis until 2010.

Rollwagen currently serves on the All-Hazard Incident Management Team and is an A-Team member for the Minnesota Emergency Management Assistance Compact.

Rollwagen has a bachelor's degree in Spanish and a bachelor's degree in biology and Chemistry from the University of Saint Thomas. She also has a master's degree in public safety administration from Saint Mary's University.



**John Kreuser, State Emergency Response Teams Coordinator for the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) State Fire Marshal Division.**

John Kreuser is the State Emergency Response Teams Coordinator for the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) State Fire Marshal Division. John educates responders statewide on oil transportation and hazardous materials, safety precautions and hazards. He also offers expert technical advice to responders as an on-call member of the State Emergency Response Teams.

John is qualified in many disciplines and has certifications in fire, hazardous materials/weapons of mass destruction (WMD), emergency medical services (EMS) and emergency management. Since joining DPS, John has completed multiple discipline-specific technical and specialist training courses and conferences.

John's interest in public safety prompted him to work as a volunteer firefighter for the Zimmerman Fire Department in 2001. He was later appointed fire chief in Randall, Minn.; a position he held for more than 9 years. During this time, he was also employed at Camp Ripley as an aircraft rescue firefighter, emergency medical technician (EMT) with Mayo Ambulance and smoke chaser with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. He remains a current member of the Zimmerman Fire Department.

With over 20 years of experience, John is passionate about instructing firefighters, EMTs, law enforcement, public officials, emergency managers and private entities. He is currently an American Heart Association faculty member; a basic life support, EMS, hazmat and fire instructor.



**Ryan Wilkinson, Vice President IAEM- USA Region 5**

Ryan Wilkinson presently holds the position of Vice President for IAEM-USA Council Region 5, collaborating closely on regional projects and initiatives with Allison Farole, the President of Region 5, and Allison Moore, the Region 5 Secretary. IAEM-USA Membership Regions correspond with those established by FEMA, including the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. In his daily capacity, Ryan serves as the Emergency Manager for Eaton County in Michigan.



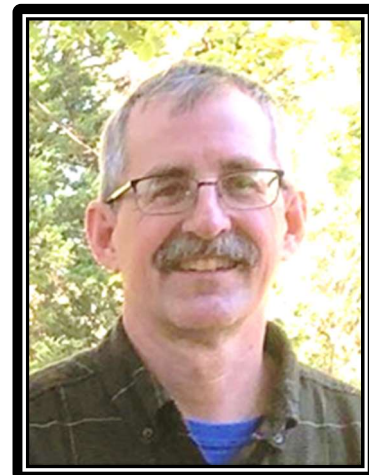
# General Session Speakers

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## Monday Speaker

### **David Morrison, U.S. EPA in Region 5**

David Morrison is a Federal On scene Coordinator with the U.S. EPA in Region 5. He works in the Emergency Response Branch and has been involved in hazardous substance and oil spill incidents as well as natural disaster cleanup response and is located in St. Paul, MN.



## Tuesday Speaker

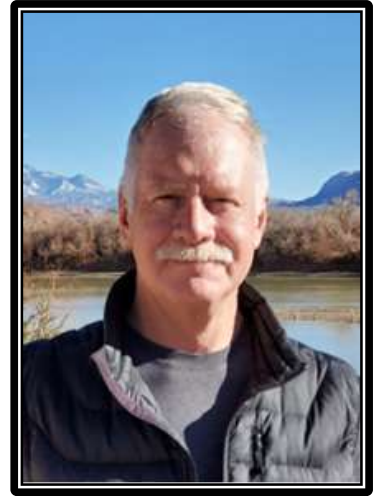
### **Dr. Kenneth Blumenfeld**

Dr. Kenneth ("Kenny") Blumenfeld is a climate scientist who grew up in Minnesota with a love for storms, blizzards, and being outside. He works for the Minnesota State Climatology Office (Department of Natural Resources), where he provides the state's agencies, communities, and citizens with up-to-date scientific information about Minnesota's changing and variable climate. He also works in a separate capacity with Hennepin County Emergency Management, and is a member of AMEM. Kenny enjoys telling and hearing weather stories, and often does it long after the workday is done.



## Wednesday Speakers

**Jeff T. Dyar, B.S. NREMT-P, EFO** Not long after becoming an EMT he enlisted and served as a combat medic during the Vietnam war. Jeff describes himself as first a teacher and then a provider and has held positions in public, private, military, and federal capacities focusing on EMS. Known as the architect of EMS management programs at the National Fire Academy, he spent nearly twelve years in the post of Program Chair for EMS in Emmitsburg, Maryland. He also responded with FEMA to dozens of national emergencies and achieved the level of Chief of Operations at the National Interagency Operation Center in Washington, D.C. Over the years James O. Page mentored and tormented him to bring leadership and meaning to national EMS. In 1999 Jeff received the James O. Page Award for contributions to advancing EMS on a national level, given by the EMS Section of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. He has co-authored three books: Management of Emergency Medical Services, Prentiss Hall, Principals of Crew Resource Management, Jones and Bartlett and From Burnout to Balance, Pearson Publishing. Jeff and his wife Val, live in a small rural town in Colorado, where he served as a Fire Commissioner of a fire protection district providing ALS level EMS services to a 258 square mile response area.



### **Alison Feigh, MS, Director of Jacob Wetterling Resource Center**

Alison Feigh, MS, is the Director of Jacob Wetterling Resource Center, a program of Zero Abuse Project. In her 20+ years of missing children advocacy, she works with students, parents, youth workers, faith leaders, law enforcement and the media to help prevent childhood abuse and abductions. Alison's work also includes writing curriculum for youth-serving organizations, training professionals about online challenges kids face and advocating for families of the missing. She is the author of two children's books and co-author of a textbook, Sex Crimes and Offenders: Exploring Questions of Character and Culture.



# Conference Speaker Biographies

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## **Dan Anderson, Senior Coordinator for Public Warning and Communications for Hennepin County Emergency Management**

Dan Anderson is Senior Coordinator for Public Warning and Communications for Hennepin County Emergency Management where he oversees Hennepin County's Public Warning program and ensures that the Hennepin County Emergency Operations Center maintains and operates voice and data communications pathways. He is a Minnesota-certified Emergency Manager, State-recognized Communications Unit Leader, a member of the MESB Communications Response Task Force (CRTF) and MN-1 All-Hazard Incident Management Team (AHIMT). He authored the alternate and auxiliary communications plans for Super Bowl 52, coordinated and managed Hennepin County's IPAWS alerting for the April 2021 Brooklyn Park civil unrest and was Situation Unit Leader for the Hennepin County Emergency Operations Center COVID-19 response.

## **Julie Anderson, Douglas County Emergency Management Director and Public Information Office**

Julie Anderson is the Emergency Management Director and Public Information Officer for Douglas County which is located in west central Minnesota. She works with local officials, business owners, nonprofit organizations, residents, and visitors to improve their ability to respond to and recover from severe weather and human caused events. Anderson is leading the county through two federally declared tornadoes which happened 18 days apart in May of 2022. Prior to her role in Douglas County, Anderson worked at the Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

## **Eric Athman, Lieutenant Colonel (LTC)**

Eric Athman is the full-time Operations Director for the Minnesota Department of Military Affairs. LTC Eric Athman also serves as the Deputy Chief of Staff for the 34th Infantry Division headquartered in Arden Hills, Minnesota.

LTC Athman enlisted as a rifleman in Company A, 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry in April 2003. He was later commissioned as a Second Lieutenant through the Army ROTC program in 2006.

LTC Athman served ten years with the 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry Regiment, which draws its regimental lineage from the 1st Minnesota Infantry Regiment. He deployed as an infantry platoon leader to Kosovo in 2007-2008. LTC Athman later deployed as an Infantry Heavy Weapons Company Commander to Kuwait and Iraq in 2011-2012. He served as an operations planner at the Brigade and Division levels. LTC Athman was then selected to be the Executive Officer of the 2nd Battalion, 136th Infantry Regiment. He was promoted and assigned to the 34th Infantry Division as the Deputy Chief of Staff.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Achievement Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Expert Infantry, Airborne, and the Air Assault Badges. LTC Athman earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Saint Cloud State University and a Master's in Business Administration from the University of St. Thomas. He completed a Public Policy Fellowship at the University of Minnesota. LTC

Athman is a graduate of the Infantry Officers' Basic and Advanced courses, as well as the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

Beyond his military service, LTC Athman volunteers for BestPrep, a non-profit that assists high schools in teaching financial literacy topics. He is a Certified Public Accountant and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Minnesota Society of Certified Public Accountants. LTC Athman is a life member of the National Guard Association of the United States and the Minnesota National Guard Officer Association. He is an active member in the Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers. LTC Athman maintains status as an Emergency Management Assistance Compact A-Team member and holds a Basic Emergency Management Certificate. LTC Athman resides in Lake Elmo, Minnesota with his wife, Mira and daughter, Asha.

### **Vicki Doehling, Douglas County Auditor-Treasurer**

Vicki Doehling has served as the Douglas County Auditor-Treasurer since March 2021. Prior to that, she was the Douglas County Property Tax / Elections Administrator and had worked in the office for 24 years. In addition to her duties of conducting elections, issuing licenses and permits, calculating and collecting property tax payments, the Auditor-Treasurer plays a key role during disaster recovery. In coordination with the County Assessor, the Auditor-Treasurer's office is tasked with calculating the amount of the disaster abatements and/or credits for each taxing authority, applying them against the property tax records, issuing the disaster abatement refunds to qualifying taxpayers and verifying all the necessary steps were taken in order to apply for state reimbursement of those abatements/credits for qualifying storms.

### **Nick Halatsis, Retired Marine**

Nick grew up and graduated from high school and college in MN. After graduating as a Gopher, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant of Marines. Following infantry-based training at The Basic School (TBS) in Quantico, VA, he headed to Pensacola, FL for Naval Flight School. Two years later he had earned his Gold Wings and headed to CA to join the Fleet Marine Force and his squadron at Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro. He deployed as a helicopter pilot and provided flight leadership both as an Aircraft Commander and Flight Division Leader. Orders complete he qualified as a Forward Air Controller, joined an infantry battalion for a year and deployed with them. Following that tour of duty, Nick headed back to Pensacola, FL this time to be an Instructor Pilot. He instructed in the T-34C and T-6 Texan2 airplanes. Years later he retired as a Lieutenant Colonel out of a Marine Transport Squadron where he flew UC-35C/D jets and UC-12W King Air airplanes. Nick will tell you that it was a true honor and privilege going forward and supporting America's brightest and bravest Warriors. Nick has college degrees in Business Management and Accounting and has completed numerous military courses. He completed the Joint Air Operations Command and Control course at Hurlburt, FL, along with the Naval School of Aviation Safety, Aviation Safety Officers curriculum, and the USAF Air Command and Staff College. In addition to graduating from the FAA Academy, over the last few years he has completed the Department of Transportation's, Transportation Safety Institutes coursework, to be designated an Advanced Aviation Safety Investigator. Most recently he has become the Operations Inspector assigned to the MN FAA Safety Team (FAASTeam) where he is responsible for aviation safety, outreach, and training for our General Aviation communities. In addition, he holds an Airline Transport license and has worked in many operations departments supporting different roles of air ops.

### **Rich Hall, Freeborn County Emergency Management**

Rich is currently serving as the Emergency Management Director with the Freeborn County Sheriff's Office in Albert Lea Minnesota. Rich has assisted Freeborn County with four Federal Disaster Declarations and three State Disaster Declarations. After graduating from the United States Army Infantry School at Fort Benning Georgia, Rich spent the next 22 years as a soldier with the United States Army and the Minnesota Army National Guard. Rich also served his community for thirty years as a Volunteer Firefighter, working Incident Command on several large disasters. Rich also served as a Civil Disturbance instructor with the Army National Guard. In 2021 The Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers (AMEM) named Rich the Emergency Management Director of the year, for his work on COVID, an active shooter event, train derailment and the civil unrest.

### **Major Michele Heaver**

Major Michele Heaver is the Divisional Disaster Services Secretary, National SATERN Liaison And MNVOAD Vice President Northern Division

### **Stacy Honkomp**

Stacy Honkomp is the Douglas County Assessor. She oversees 10 employees. The assessor administers the value and classification of all properties in the county to ensure they are fairly and accurately assessed and pay their fair share of property tax. The County Assessor is required to hold a Senior Accredited Minnesota Assessor license (SAMA) from the MN State Board of Assessors. A SAMA license requires a structured set of coursework, appraisal assignments, comprehensive exams, an interview by the State Board of Assessors, a minimum 5 years' experience, and 60 hours of continuing ed every 4-year cycle.

### **Erin Hughes, Stearns County Emergency Manager**

Hughes began her career in emergency services with the City of St. Cloud in 2003, serving as a Special Projects Coordinator for the Community Emergency Response Team. She joined the Stearns County Emergency Management Department in 2004 as a Planner a position which she held for nine years at which time she accepted the position as the County Emergency Manager.

She is a Certified Emergency Manager in the State of Minnesota, a recognized Master Exercise Practitioner by FEMA, and a member of the Minnesota Type III All Hazards Incident Management Team. Hughes has experience with disaster response including record flooding in Browns Valley in 2007, flooding and pandemic influenza in 2009, severe storms and straight-line winds in 2010, Presidential Disaster Declaration in 2011, historic flooding in Carlton County, severe storms and straight-line winds, and Hurricane Irene in Massachusetts during 2012, Presidential Disaster Declaration in 2013, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in 2015, 2022 and Hurricane Irma in Florida in 2017. Hughes received her Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work and Master of Science in Public Safety Executive Leadership from St. Cloud State University.

### **Paul Janke, FAA Air Traffic Controller**

Paul is native to Minnesota. In college he obtained a Commercial Pilot Certificate and was a Certified Flight Instructor. In 2008, he joined the Federal Aviation Administration as an Air Traffic Controller. He worked at both an Air Traffic Control Tower and an Air Route Traffic Control Center. Since 2020, he has worked in the Minneapolis Flight Standards District Office as an Aviation Safety Technician and UAS Subject Matter Expert.

**Kathy Jorgensen, Minnesota Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps (MNVMRC)**

Kathy Jorgensen graduated from North Dakota State University in 1991 with a B.S. in microbiology and from the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine in 1995. In 2011, she completed a master's degree in public health from the University of Minnesota. Dr. Jorgensen achieved Diplomate status in the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine in 2011. She is the coordinator of the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps. She has been active in agricultural disaster preparedness and response and the state's Radiologic Emergency Preparedness Program. She is a certified FEMA trainer for four radiologic/nuclear hazards courses and is ProBoard certified at the Hazardous Materials, Operations Level. She is a current member of the National Animal Decon Working Group. She serves as a Planning Section Chief in the Minnesota Board of Animal Health incident management team. She and her husband run a beef farm in central Minnesota, and she enjoys spending time with their Border Collie, Alice, four cats and numerous chickens.

**Arden Kopischke, Lyon County Iowa Emergency Management**

I have been in the fire service for 40 years as a volunteer firefighter, 12 years as Fire Chief, 12 years as an EMT, 25 years as a fire instructor, and 10 years as Lyon County Emergency Management Coordinator.

**Todd Krause, National Weather Service Warning Coordination Meteorologist**

Todd Krause graduated from Bethel University in Arden Hills, Minnesota, then received his M.S. in Meteorology from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City. He started his career with the National Weather Service as an intern in Huron, South Dakota, then worked as an intern in Wichita, Kansas before becoming a forecaster in the Twin Cities in 1989. He has been the Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the National Weather Service Twin Cities office since 1994.

**Ryc Lyden, MNVOAD President**

Ryc Lyden has been the MNVOAD President for 5 years. His volunteer commitment began in 1972 when he first joined the Red Cross Disaster Services. Since that time he has over 25 years working in public safety and was a Senior Planner for the MN Division of Emergency Management for 10 years. Currently, he volunteers with the Red Cross, Salvation Army, ARRL/ARES, Bloomington AuxComm, Minnesota Canine Search Rescue and Tracking and the Association of Emergency Radio Organizations as lead instructor.

**Gwen Martin, PhD, Deputy Director of Public Safety / Police Captain and Emergency Manager, Cottage Grove Police Department**

Gwen Martin has been with Cottage Grove's Department of Public Safety since 2000 having previously worked as a community mental health social worker for 10 years. She is a licensed peace officer and a paramedic and holds an undergraduate degree in Psychology and graduate degrees in Police Leadership and Emergency Management. While obtaining her National Emergency Management Advanced Academy certificate from FEMA's Emergency Management Institute in 2022, she published a paper examining the phenomenon of posttraumatic growth and how it could be integrated into the disaster recovery process. Additionally, Gwen has deployed to wildfires, civil unrest, flooding, and other emergencies as a member of Minnesota's Type 3 All Hazards Incident Management Team (MN-1

AHIMT) and of a MNICS Type 3 Incident Management Team. Gwen brings with her a wealth of background experience in social work, paramedicine, law enforcement, and emergency management.

### **Tim Martin, Sergeant First Class (SFC)**

SFC Tim Martin is an Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) Soldier with the Minnesota National Guard's Joint Operations Center (JOC). His main duty position is the Minnesota's National Guard Interagency Operations Sergeant stationed at the Joint Force Head Quarter's (JFHQ) Armory in Saint Paul, MN.

SFC Martin served as an Infantryman, Heavy Vehicle Operations Sergeant, Information Management Officer, Distribution Sergeant, Admin/Supply/Training/Readiness Sergeant at the Company level before this current position. He has served in Operation Desert Spring(Kuwait-Iraq), Operation Enduring Freedom(Afghanistan), Operation Jump Start(New Mexico Border), Overseas Crosstrain(Germany, England, Scotland), International Response liaison for MN with 10 other Countries(Croatia), Operation Sentinel Freedom(Djibouti), and numerous Stateside missions and training events.

SFC Martin is currently back in school fulltime earning his Bachelor's degree in Human Resources focused in Organized Leadership. He currently lives in Rochester, MN with his three kids, Griffin who followed his dad's footsteps in the Military as a Blackhawk mechanic, Paris who is a Corrections Officer, and Faith who is in high school and a lead Flutiest and Piccolo for the band.

### **David Morrison, U.S. EPA in Region 5**

David Morrison is a Federal On scene Coordinator with the U.S. EPA in Region 5. He works in the Emergency Response Branch and has been involved in hazardous substance and oil spill incidents as well as natural disaster cleanup response and is located in St. Paul, Mn.

### **Ana Negrete, Community Planner for Department of Public Safety's Missing Murdered Indigenous Relatives Office**

Ana Negrete is the Community Planner for Department of Public Safety's Missing Murdered Indigenous Relatives Office. As the Community Planner, Ana works to raise awareness, train across multiple systems along with her team and collaborate with stakeholders to strengthen the states response to the Missing and Murdered epidemic that was documented in Wilder Researchers MMIW Task Force Report to the legislators.

Ana comes to the department with more than 25 years of experience working within the Juvenile Justice System in various settings including her work as a probation officer and addressing systemic racial disparities, under her role as the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Coordinator.

In this new role she hopes to develop relationships with various partners throughout the state to address the root causes of MMIR injustice. Her hope is to engage with those impacted by MMIR and seek to elevate their voices while raising awareness and pushing for systemic change. She hopes to support existing community lead efforts and collaborate agencies working to address risk factor which lead to vulnerabilities for MMIR.

**Matt Pollmann, Lake County Emergency Management Director**

Matt Pollmann is the Lake County Emergency Management Director since September 2020. He has a background in emergency management and public health and holds a Master's in Emergency Management from Georgetown University.

**Kayley Sansom, Intelligence Specialist for the Office of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives in the Minnesota Department of Public Safety**

Kayley Sansom is the Intelligence Specialist for the Office of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives in the Minnesota Department of Public Safety. Previously, she was an analyst for the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension for almost three years, in addition to prior work in the Kansas court system and developing mobile and web apps as a software test engineer. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and Criminology, graduating Magna Cum Laude from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 2016.

As the Intelligence Specialist, Kayley offers technical assistance to local and Tribal law enforcement agencies during active investigations to provide them with quick, accurate, and complete intelligence relevant to their inquiries. She is also in charge of state-wide data tracking, collection, and analysis regarding the epidemic of violence against Indigenous people.

Kayley is an experienced analyst with a demonstrated history of working in government criminal justice agencies. She has a unique set of skills of analysis of information and data systems, criminal justice system laws and procedures, project management, and technical expertise with software and databases. She has a passion for delivering justice for communities that are historically underserved and oppressed.

Kayley currently lives in Northeast Minneapolis and enjoys knitting large blankets, reading mystery novels, baking vegan sweets, volunteering at the animal shelter, and exploring the best parks and hiking trails Minnesota has to offer.

Bryan Savaloja, Sergeant Wadena County Sheriff's Office  
I am currently a Sergeant with the Wadena County Sheriff's Office, where I've been since 2007. I have been involved in Emergency Management within our agency since 2009 and eventually assumed the role of Deputy Director of Emergency Management in 2013 and have held that position since. I am also the System Administrator of all the ARMER radios in Wadena County. I have been on the front lines of several disasters and incidents in Wadena County, including 2009 flooding, 2010 EF4 tornado response and recovery, 2012 1,600 acre Jeep Fire, 2013 7,100 acre Green Valley Wildfire, and several tornadoes in 2022. I became a certified MN Emergency Manager in 2018.

**Amber Schindeldecker, Public Information Officer for the Emergency Communication Networks division and the Homeland Security and Emergency Management**

Amber Schindeldecker is the Public Information Officer for the Emergency Communication Networks division and the Homeland Security and Emergency Management division of the Department of Public Safety. Prior to public service, Amber worked in TV news for 12 years at stations across the nation in various roles. She ended her TV news career as the 10 p.m. news producer at KARE-11 in Golden Valley. Amber is a creative storyteller and a strategic communicator. She facilitates regular training opportunities on topics such as: effective communication, social media strategies and media management.

**Shane Sheets, Director of the Midwest Medical Examiner's Office**

Shane Sheets is an experienced medicolegal death investigator and is the Director of the Midwest Medical Examiner's Office where he manages a team of forensic pathologists, medicolegal death investigators, forensic technicians, and support staff. He holds an MBA with an undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice/Criminology. He is a diplomat of the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners.

**Derek VanLuchene, National Criminal Justice Training Center**

Derek VanLuchene brings a unique perspective to the issues of sex offender management and child abduction. In 1987, his 8-year-old brother Ryan was abducted right from the family's backyard in rural Montana and murdered by a repeat sex offender. Since that time, Derek has devoted himself to issues of sensible sex offender management as well as child abduction response. Derek currently serves as the national Child Abduction Response Team (CART) Program Coordinator for AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program and the National Criminal Justice Training Center (NCJTC). In this role, Derek oversees the training and technical assistance and certifications for CART Teams nationwide. Previous to his current position, Derek spent 18 years as a Montana Law Enforcement Officer working for both the Conrad Police Department and The Montana Division of Criminal Investigation. Derek also manages Ryan United, a non-profit organization dedicated to his brother. Through Ryan United, Derek provides resources to crime victims, law enforcement, corrections officials specific to sex offender management, child abduction and community safety.

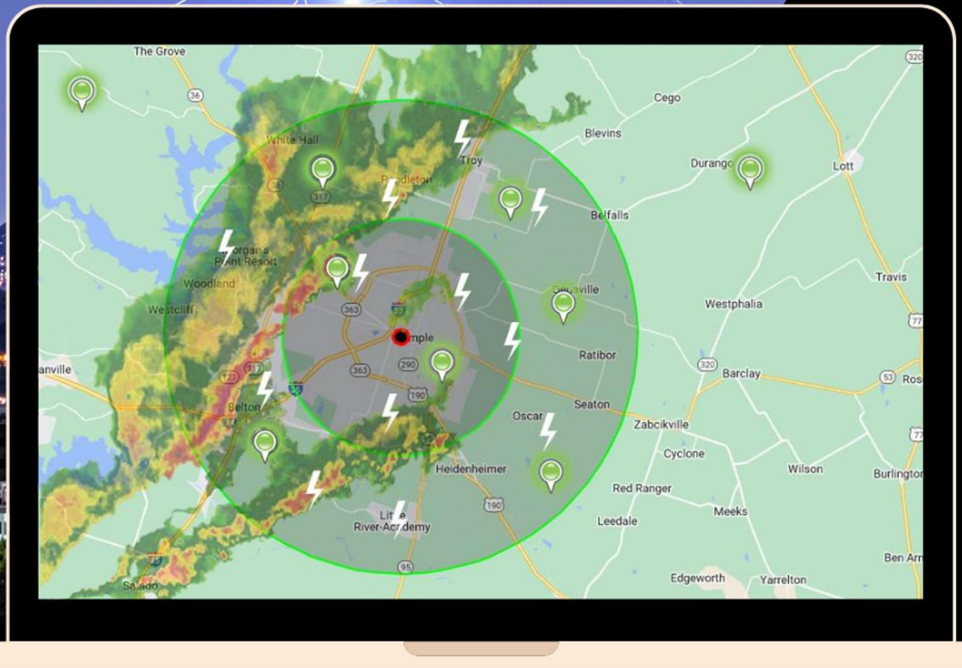
**Eric Waage, Director of Emergency Management Hennepin County**

Eric Waage is the Director of Emergency Management for Hennepin County, Minnesota, a metropolitan jurisdiction of 1.3 million people. He leads the county's continuity, readiness, and disaster response and recovery efforts. He has helped navigate the county through several federally declared disasters and other crisis during his tenure which began in late 2011. Prior to coming to Hennepin County, Waage retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army after serving in several defense support to civil authority assignments as well as in overseas deployments. He is currently a doctoral student in emergency Management.



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# **AMEM Annual Meeting**

## ***Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers (AMEM)***

**Annual Meeting September 18<sup>th</sup> ,2023**

**Breezy Point Resort, Breezy Point, MN**

### ***AGENDA***

***(President Blain Johnson, Presiding)***

- I. Call to Order.**
- II. Agenda Review and Approval** (Page 40)
- III. Secretary's Report (Breanna Koval, Wilkin County)**  
(Action: Approve Minutes of 2022 Annual Meeting, (See Page 41 )
- IV. Treasurer's Report (Kristen Sailer, Steele County)**
- V. Audit Committee Report (Jill Hasbargen Olson, Lake of the Woods County)**
- VI. Professional Development Committee Report**  
(Kristen Tschida, Stearns County, Chair)
- VII. Government Affairs and Education Committee Report**  
(Garry Johanson, Norman County, Chair)
- VIII. President's Report (Blain Johnson, Lac qui Parle County)**
  - Recognition of Board Members, Committee Chairs, Liaisons
- VII. Old Business**
- IX. New Business**
- VIII. Next Annual Meeting:**  
**In conjunction with AMEM Annual Fall Conference,**  
**September 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Breezy Point Resort, Breezy Point, MN.**
- IX. Adjourn**

# ***Association of Minnesota Emergency Manager's Annual Meeting Minutes (Draft)***

## **September 19<sup>th</sup> ,2022**

- **Call to Order.** President Matzek called the meeting to order at 11:16AM. A brief welcome and thank you was given to members and guests in attendance.
  - **Agenda Review and Approval.** President Matzek reviewed the agenda and made a motion for approval. **Approve Agenda – Todd County, Nobles County, motion passed.**
  - **Secretary's Report** (Breanna Koval, Wilkin County). Breanna Koval referenced the minutes of the 2021 annual meeting in the conference handbook. The minutes were submitted for approval by the membership. **Approve Report – Koochiching County, Meeker County, motion passed.**
  - **Treasurer's Report** (Chris Muller, Beltrami County). Muller referenced the annual treasurer's report. The report was submitted for approval by the membership. **Approve Report – Norman County, Carver County, motion passed.**
  - **Audit Committee Report** (Jill Hasbargen-Olson, Lake of the Woods County). Hasbargen-Olson presented the annual audit committee report. The committee made the following recommendations:
    - No deficiencies were noted.
  - **President's Annual Report** (Kelli Matzek, Washington County)
    - Recognition of Board Members, Committee Chairs, and Liaisons: President Matzek gave recognition to the AMEM Board of Directors, Committee Chairs/Members, and Liaisons.
    - Past Year in Review: President Matzek gave remarks on the various activities that have occurred over the past year.
  - **Professional Development Committee Report** (Kristen Tschida, Stearns County)
    - An overview of activities performed by the professional development committee was given. New activities/initiatives mentioned include AMEM sponsored training events and the emerging professionals group.
  - **Government Affairs and Education Committee Report** (John Bowen)
    - An overview was given of current legislative activities including the EM Supplemental Grant funding, COVID Funds, Frontline Worker pay, and broadband funding. The committee continues to monitor railway, drone and pipeline safety issues as they arise.
  - **Nominations Committee Report** (Duane Johnson, St. Louis County)
    - Johnson, Chairman of the Nominations Committee presented the committee recommendations for the 2022/2023 AMEM officers:
      - President: Blain Johnson, (Lac qui Parle County)**
      - First-Vice President: Erin Tufte (Stearns County)**
      - Second-Vice President: Kurt Fondrick (Mdewakanton Public Safety)**
      - Judge Advocate: Tawn Hall (Nobles County)**
      - Treasurer: Kristen Sailer (Steele County)**
      - Secretary: Breanna Koval (Wilkin County)**
- President Matzek asked for any additional nominations, and having none, requested a motion to accept the nominations. **Motion to Approve – Brown County, Murray County, motion passed.**
- **Old Business.** None
  - **New Business.** None
  - **Next Annual Meeting.** In conjunction with AMEM Annual Fall Conference, September 17-20, 2023
  - **Adjourn.** **Motion to Adjourn – St. Louis County, Crow Wing County – motion passed.**

# GOVERNOR'S HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

February 6-7, 2024

We're offering both pre-and-post conference training to augment the two full days of general sessions and breakout sessions.

**So, mark your calendars!**

If you have a breakout session or keynote speaker you'd like to suggest to the conference committee for consideration, please email:  
**[cassie.calametti@state.mn.us](mailto:cassie.calametti@state.mn.us)**

Watch for more information — including a more detailed daily schedule — in the coming months.

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# AMEM Board of Directors 2022-2023

Association of Minnesota  
Emergency Managers (AMEM)  
**"Leading Minnesota Readiness"**  
[www.amemminnesota.org](http://www.amemminnesota.org)



## **President**

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## **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

### **Erin Hughes**

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## **Past President**

### **Kelli Matzek**

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## **Executive Director**

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## **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**

### **Kurt Fondrick**

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## **Secretary**

### **Breanna Koval**

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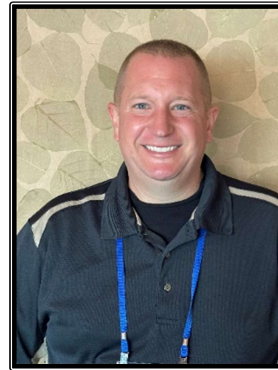


**Treasurer**

**Kristen Sailer**

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**Judge Advocate**

**Tawn Hall**

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**Region 3 Representative**

**Ed Snetsinger**

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**445 Minnesota Street, Suite 1725, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101**

**General Contact: [ecn@state.mn.us](mailto:ecn@state.mn.us), 651-201-7099**

The Division of Emergency Communication Networks encompasses five programs and manages two critical public safety communication networks. The Statewide 911 Program manages the 911 network, the Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (ARMER) statewide shared radio communications network is managed under the ARMER Program, the Statewide Interoperability Program aims to improve the communications of Minnesota's first responders regardless of the radio systems they have in place, IPAWS is used by state, tribal, and local authorities to send emergency warnings within their jurisdictions, and Wireless Broadband deals with the national FirstNet program that is innovating a network designed for and by Public Safety.



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**651-201-7400**

The Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management helps Minnesotans prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters and works to keep Minnesota secure from acts of terrorism.



**Ryan Wilkinson**  
**Emergency Manager**  
**County of Eaton Emergency Management**  
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The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), which has more than 6,0000 members worldwide, is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to promoting the Principles of Emergency Management and representing those professionals whose goals are saving lives and protecting property and the environment during emergencies and disasters. The IAEM-USA Council includes IAEM-USA Membership Regions that correspond with those established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The IAEM-USA Council is governed by a Board of Directors that includes representatives from each IAEM-USA Region, as well as officers elected by all IAEM-USA members. IAEM-USA Council Region 5 includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin.



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**Minnesota Pipeline Community Awareness Emergency Response Association (MN CAER). Contact: Shawn Leeth Email Address: shawnl@pdigm.com**

**Phone: 316-617-4162 222 South Ridge Road, Wichita, KS 67209**

Minnesota Pipeline CAER serves to collectively provide pipeline safety information to Minnesota emergency officials, including local fire, law enforcement and others through the enhanced awareness of pipeline emergencies, availability of member resources and emergency response capabilities. In addition, CAER pipeline and distribution operators and members jointly support efforts to increase awareness of pipeline damage prevention to excavators and public officials.



**Minnesota Office of Pipeline Safety**

**MN Dept. of Public Safety 445 Minnesota Street St. Paul, MN 55101- 5147**

**Main number: (651) 201-7230 Website: <http://ops.dps.mn.gov>**

The mission of the Minnesota Office of Pipeline Safety (MNOPS) is to protect lives, property, and the environment through the implementation of a program of gas and hazardous liquid pipeline inspections, enforcement, accident and incident investigations, and education.



**Minnesota State Fire Marshal Division**

**445 Minnesota Street, Suite 145**

**St. Paul, MN 55101 651-201-7200**

**Website: <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/sfm/Pages/default.aspx>**

MISSION: SFMD strengthens Minnesota fire-safe environments by providing statewide leadership and guidance in support of fire and life safety policy, enforcement, prevention, and education.



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**MINNESOTA  
VETERINARY MEDICAL  
RESERVE CORPS**

**Minnesota Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps**  
**101 Bridgepoint Way Suite 100, South St. Paul, MN 55075**  
**Contact: Kathy Jorgensen [coordinator.mnvmrc@gmail.com](mailto:coordinator.mnvmrc@gmail.com), 320-249-4892**

The Minnesota Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps (MNVMRC) was established in 2004 and is an "all-hazards" volunteer responder program of the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association. It is designed to provide medical aid to animals and provide assistance to local veterinary infrastructure which may be affected by local or regional emergencies/disasters. The MNVMRC also plays a role in public health education and is available to provide assistance during animal disease outbreaks which impact public health.



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**Minnesota Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster**  
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**Contact: Ryc Lyden Email Address: [ryclyden@gmail.com](mailto:ryclyden@gmail.com)**  
**Phone: 651-434-4399**

Minnesota VOAD is the association of voluntary agencies and their partners involved in disaster response, recovery, and preparedness. MNVOAD works to promote cooperation, communication, collaboration, and coordination, the 4 C's, in order to help all our members, provide better service to those impacted by disasters in Minnesota.



**National Weather Service**  
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**Chanhassen, MN 55317 [todd.krause@noaa.gov](mailto:todd.krause@noaa.gov), 952-368-2554**  
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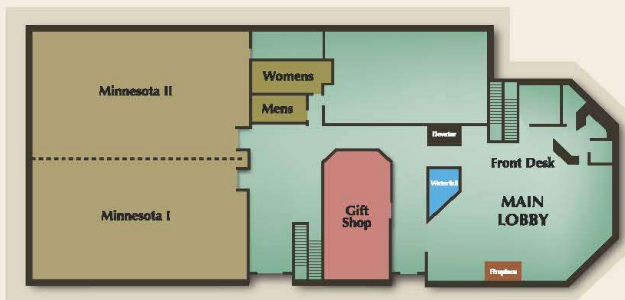
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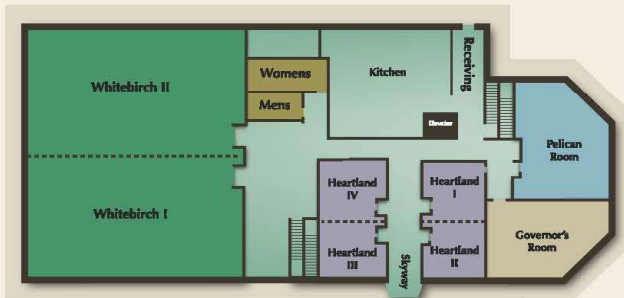


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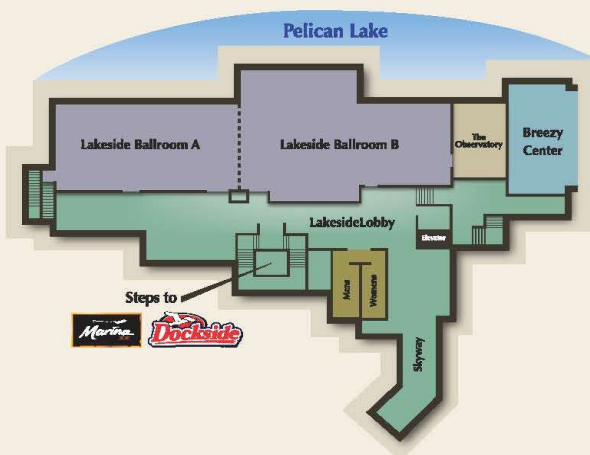
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