

*FEMA Private Sector Workshop held at the  
2009 National Conference on Community Preparedness  
August 27, 2009*

August 2009

FEMA's Private Sector Division of the Office of External Affairs partnered with the National Preparedness Directorate to present "Engaging the Private Sector," a two-day workshop on public-private partnerships held at the [National Conference on Community Preparedness](#) in Arlington, Virginia on August 12-13, 2009.

The workshop's attendees represented a broad mix of national private sector organizations, emergency management, law enforcement, military and state and local government. Participants represented the American Red Cross, Arlington Fire Department of Washington state, Boyd Gaming of Las Vegas, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, San Diego County Office of Emergency Services, as well as emergency management professionals from Massachusetts, Maryland, Wisconsin and numerous other states and municipalities.

The participants discussed practices and shared ideas on improving communications and partnerships between private sector organizations and public sector agencies in all phases of emergency management. They also worked together on an exercise to propose solutions to many of the operational challenges involved in maintaining successful public-private partnerships, solutions that they can consider incorporating into real world scenarios in their home communities. Bruce Ahlmann with Des Plaines, Illinois Homeland Security said "I will be using some of the ideas from the workshop in our city preparedness efforts with our local businesses."

The workshop and conference were hosted by FEMA's Community Preparedness Division, FEMA's community preparedness organization focused on community resilience before and after a disaster or emergency event, [www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov).

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