

National Advisory Council Meeting September 26-28 | Salt Lake City, UT | Panelist Bios

PANEL 1: The Importance of Insurance and Emergency Management



Roy Wright - President and CEO, Insurance Institute for Building & Home Safety

Roy Wright is a disaster safety expert and recognized resiliency shaper. For two decades he's served in roles that put him on the ground in the immediate aftermath of weather-driven and climate-related disasters, walking through damaged homes with survivors, and leading the charge for stronger construction standards, enhanced mitigation efforts, and better building codes.

A former Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) official, Roy joined the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) in 2018 with experience in property insurance, risk management, mitigation, climate adaptation, and resilience planning. Convinced that the continuing cycle of human suffering that strikes families and communities in the wake of severe weather can be broken, Roy leads a team of scientists and risk communicators who deliver strategies to build safer and stronger homes and businesses. His team uses a unique, state-of-the-art research facility to conduct realistic re-creations of severe weather hazards on full-scale structures. IBHS's real-world impact enables the insurance industry and affected property owners to prevent avoidable losses. Its FORTIFIED program, based on scientific research and real-world testing, is a construction and re-roofing standard that strengthens homes and buildings against severe weather.

Roy joined IBHS from FEMA where he served as the chief executive of the National Flood Insurance Program, led the agency's Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, and directed the resilience programs addressing earthquake, fire, flood, and wind risks. Prior to joining FEMA in 2007, Roy worked in public and private sector roles with Coray Gurnitz Strategy Consulting and the U.S. Department of the Interior.

A native of California, Roy earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Azusa Pacific University and a Master of Public Administration from The George Washington University.





Karen Collins - Vice President, Property and Environmental, Policy, Research, and International Division, American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA)

APCIA is the primary national trade association for home, auto, and business insurers, with over 1,200 member companies nationwide. APCIA's members write over 60 percent of the property and casualty insurance in the U.S. APCIA promotes and protects the viability of private competition for the benefit of consumers and insurers, with a legacy dating back 150 years. Karen provides thought leadership on property and natural catastrophe issues, with emphasis on risk mitigation and resilience and post-disaster response. She provides policy expertise on legislative and regulatory issues at the state, federal and international level, on behalf of the trade association and its membership. She has authored numerous white papers on issues impacting property insurance markets across the U.S., such as inflation, natural catastrophes, and environmental impacts, and frequently provides presentations and interviews on such topics. Prior to joining APCIA, Karen acquired 20 years of insurance experience with several major insurance carriers, in varying roles and responsibilities spanning Product, Sales, I.T., and Claims. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and Marketing and has previously held insurance licenses in California for Property & Casualty, Life & Health.



Ryan Pietramali - Recovery Division Director, FEMA Region VIII

Mr. Ryan Pietramali joined FEMA in 2007 and is Region 8's Recovery Division Director where he oversees disaster recovery programs and interagency coordination within the region. As a Deputy Federal Coordination Officer for Recovery, he has been involved in eleven COVID-19 declarations providing guidance on the obligation of more than \$3 billion dollars while supporting Region 8 states and tribes in the fight against the pandemic. Prior to being the Recovery Division Director, he served as Region 8's Risk Analysis Branch Chief, improving community safety and disaster resilience. He served in disaster leadership positions, Hurricane Irma in Florida in 2017, in Colorado's 2013 flood recovery, as well as the lead of an "advisory base flood elevation" task force in New Jersey following Hurricane Sandy. Before joining FEMA Mr. Pietramali was employed by the State of Utah's Division of Emergency Services as the State Public Assistance Officer. He served in numerous state leadership positions, including Utah's Deputy State Coordinating Officer/Public Assistance Officer, lead on the state's National Emergency Management Accreditation Program assessment, and as the Long-Range Recovery Committee for Katrina evacuees chair. Mr. Pietramali has a Bachelor of Science degree in Geography, with an emphasis on natural hazard reduction and Geographic Information Systems from the University of Utah, and a Master's Certificate in Homeland Security from the University of Denver.



Jon Pike - Insurance Commissioner, State of Utah

Jon Pike has served as Utah Insurance Commissioner since being appointed by Governor Spencer J. Cox on January 5, 2021. Pike worked in several positions with Intermountain Healthcare from 1990 through 2020, including 26 years as the southwest Utah operations director for SelectHealth, the health insurance division of Intermountain. He was a member of the National Association of Healthcare Underwriters and the Utah Association of Healthcare Underwriters for many years. Pike is currently a member of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners and serves as the Chair of the association's Market Conduct and Consumer Affairs Committee. In 2007, Pike was elected to the St. George City Council and in 2013 he was elected mayor of St. George, where he served until January of 2021. Pike currently serves on the boards of Encircle St. George, the Southwest Utah Symphony and Orchestra, and the Southern Utah Performing Arts Center Foundation. Pike received a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Utah and an MBA from Westminster College.



Katie Sabo - Managing Director, Public Sector, Aon

Katie oversees state, local and quasi-governmental entities for Aon Reinsurance Solutions. In this role, Katie focuses on partnering with public entities to help reduce today's most pressing risks, such as natural disasters and climate, using innovative reinsurance solutions. Katie has almost twenty years of experience with state, local and quasi-governmental entities. Prior to joining Aon in 2016, Katie worked in local government with a focus on budgetary, policy and financial solutions to reduce fiscal risk to general funds and taxpayers. Katie served in many roles including as a Budget Analyst, Policy Director, and Chief of Staff. During her time in government affairs, Katie managed local, state, and federal policies, budgets and relationships across a range of issues including pension reform, capital planning, healthcare, and natural disasters. Mostly recently Katie has undertaken the creation of a specialized product for public entities to reduce fiscal losses tied to natural disasters and climate change. Public Sector Budget/Natural Disaster Insurance is a standalone product used to designed to complement disaster recovery funds received by FEMA.

PANEL 2: Seismic Preparedness and Financing



Anna Lang - Research Engineer and Founder, Zylent

Dr. Anna Lang has worked for 19 years at the intersection of industry, academia, and emerging technology. She is an expert on the seismic behavior of masonry buildings and works globally on disaster mitigation and recovery.

She proudly serves on FEMA's National Advisory Council and several professional engineering committees on resilience of the built environment. Dr. Lang was awarded an Intelligence Community Postdoctoral Fellowship in remote sensing by the Central Intelligence Agency. She earned her PhD and MS in earthquake engineering from UC San Diego and a BS in Architectural Engineering from Cal Poly, SLO.



Brian Strong - Chief Resilience Officer and Director, Office of Resilience & Capital Planning, City & County of San Francisco

As the City's Chief Resilience Officer and Director of the Office of Resilience and Capital Planning, Brian Strong is on the forefront of making San Francisco safe, sustainable, more equitable, and resilient far into the future. This includes overseeing the City's \$41 billion capital plan and annual capital budget and citywide resilience efforts such as the Hazards and Climate Resilience Plan, ClimateSF, Earthquake Safety Implementation Program, and Lifelines Council.

Brian was recently appointed to Chair the Climate Committee of the National Advisory Council for FEMA. Brian also serves as Board President for the San Francisco Community Investment Fund that distributes tax credits to improve distressed communities that have faced discrimination and other hardships. Brian has a master's degree in intergovernmental management from the University of Southern California and a bachelor's degree from Oberlin College.



Amanda Hertzfeld - Unreinforced Masonry Program Manager, City of Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections

Amanda Hertzfeld is currently the URM Program Manager for the City of Seattle where she is working to develop a mandatory retrofit policy for the city's 1,100 URM buildings. Amanda began questioning delays in URM retrofit legislation during her undergraduate "Rocks for Jocks" class after the professor described the Cascadia Subduction Zone scenario as the "Katrina of the PNW". She pursued a graduate degree in Urban Planning from the University of Washington where she focused on Hazard Mitigation Planning and helped develop WA's tsunami vertical evacuation tower planning process. She then worked for FEMA Region 10 for twelve years, supporting response to the Tohoku Tsunami (2011), planning for the Evergreen Quake Exercise (2012) and two flavors of Cascadia Rising Exercises (2016, 2022), lead Mitigation Planning and Hazus Earthquake trainings, supported response and recovery to the 2018 Anchorage earthquake, was a key contributor to the Wasatch Fault URM Risk Reduction Strategy, and facilitated recommended improvements to the seismic structural BCA tool.



Anne Rosinski, PG, CEG - Earthquake Program Manager, FEMA Region IX

Anne returned to FEMA Region 9 from the state of California, where she worked for nearly two decades as a Senior Engineering Geologist publishing liquefaction hazard maps and performing seismic hazard assessments of critical use facilities such as hospitals and schools. In 2010, she was appointed as Chair of the California Earthquake Clearinghouse (Clearinghouse), a shared resource that now provides State and Federal disaster response managers, and the scientific and engineering communities, with prompt information on ground failure, structural damage, and other consequences from significant earthquakes and tsunamis. During her tenure with the Clearinghouse, she directed the scientific and engineering response for the 2014 Mw 6.0 Napa Earthquake and spearheaded numerous large-scale earthquake exercises. She brings comprehensive knowledge and experience to her role as Earthquake Program Manager and prioritizes collaboration across the earthquake hazards community and holistic thinking to foster increased seismic resilience in the Region. Prior to her time with the state of California, Anne worked for FEMA Region IX in the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Branch while it was at the Presidio, in San Francisco. Anne is a Certified Engineering Geologist in California, with a master's degree from San Jose State University in Engineering Geology, and bachelor's degrees from San Francisco State University in both Geology and English.



Janna Wilkinson - Resilience Bureau Chief, Utah Division of Emergency Management

Part of a dynamic and collaborative team, Janna Wilkinson joined the Utah Division of Emergency Management in 2015 and currently works as the Resilience Bureau Chief. She has deployed to assist in disaster recovery for both local and national disasters - including the Anchorage, AK Earthquake recovery - and has managed recovery of the 2020 simultaneous Utah COVID-19, Magna Earthquake, and Windstorm Presidential Disasters (2023 Flood pending).

Janna holds an MSc in Hazards and Disaster Management from Kingston University, London; a Bachelor of Social Work from Wheelock College, Boston; and is a Certified Floodplain Manager.