

# FEMA Welcomes New Emergency Management Exchange Selectees

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WASHINGTON -- Today, FEMA Deputy Administrator Erik A. Hooks welcomed the first group of participants in the new FEMA Emergency Management Exchange program.

First announced by Administrator Deanne Criswell in March, the new program offers state, tribal, local and territorial emergency managers and government officials the opportunity to work hand-in-hand with FEMA senior leadership. The program also provides a new avenue to strengthen FEMA's partnerships with state, territory, tribal and local emergency managers to increase community resilience against disasters.

"Today, FEMA welcomes four talented and dedicated public servants to join us on a new collaboration we expect will produce tremendous results," said Deputy Administrator Hooks. "The willingness of these emergency managers to join us here presents us with opportunities to learn from each other, share best practices and break down barriers, enabling us to better serve communities across our nation."

The Emergency Management Exchange brings FEMA closer to our stakeholders and highlights the agency's focus on strengthening the emergency management workforce, a key goal of the [2022-2026 FEMA Strategic Plan](#).

The selected participants were nominated by their home organizations and bring a variety of experiences to their pre-identified exchange assignment.

FEMA is pleased to welcome the following government partners to join us for the 2022 Emergency Management Exchange.

- **Chas Eby**, Deputy Executive Director, Maryland Department of Emergency Management will work to help deliver disaster recovery assistance to survivors and communities in the **Recovery Directorate assignment**.



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- **Delanie Edmunds**, Emergency Planner, Idaho Office of Emergency Management will support the mobilization and direction of emergency response resources and capabilities in the **Response Directorate assignment**.
- **Alexandra Gallo**, California Strategic Growth Council, Governor's Office of Planning and Research will work on climate adaptation policy, programming and public information and services in the **Resilience: Climate assignment**.
- **Paige Nutter**, Hazard Mitigation Coordinator, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma will help to improve disaster outcomes for underserved communities and ensure equitable delivery of FEMA's programs and services in the **Resilience: Equity assignment**.

This Emergency Management Exchange will run from July to December 2022, with a future session planned from January to June 2023, where FEMA will send four of its federal employees to participating non-federal governmental programs.

To learn more about the emergency management exchange or the work assignments, visit the [Emergency Manager Exchange web page](#).

