

EMAC PANEL DISCUSSION

This panel discussion will center around issues and “best practices” with state to state mutual aid through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). Questions from a facilitator as well as the audience will generate discussion and interaction between panelists, which include professionals from state and federal US&R teams, as well as state Emergency Management professionals that serve as EMAC coordinators for their state.

(Panelists Listed Below)

Richard A. Kelley

Fire Chief
Oklahoma City Fire Department



Richard A. Kelley joined the Oklahoma City Fire Department in 1991 and was appointed Fire Chief in September 2017. He promoted through the ranks in suppression and held the positions of Special Operations Coordinator, Technical Rescue Station Officer, Ride-out Officer, Battalion Chief, Deputy Chief of Support Services and Deputy Chief of Operations. He is a Fire Instructor Level II, EMT, HazMat Technician, Rescue Technician, Dive Team Member and OK-TF1 Task Force Leader. Chief Kelley was an adjunct instructor for Eastern Oklahoma County Vo-Tech Fire Training Academy, mentoring and training students for over a decade. He is a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the Oklahoma Fire Chiefs Association (OFCA) and the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association. Chief Kelley currently serves on the Board for the YMCA of Greater OKC, and Ex Officio Member of the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum Board of Trustees and OSFA Museum Expansion Committee. Graduate of Leadership Oklahoma City Class 37. Chief Kelley has been recognized for many awards throughout his career, Captain/Major of the year in 2005 and Major of Special Operations in the Work Section of the Year in 2006. Chief Kelley has a degree in Municipal Fire Protection from Oklahoma State University. He has attended the National Fire Academy for multiple classes and completed the Oklahoma Executive Fire Officer Leadership Program in 2015. Along with his wife Liz, Chief Kelley’s household includes daughters Mikayla, Johnna and Addison, and step-children Emily and Nick. He enjoys spending time with his family, spoiling his first granddaughter Karter Jae, and physical fitness. He attends Life Church NW.

Jonathan York

Response & Recovery Branch Director

EMAC Coordinator

Kansas Division of Emergency Management



Jonathan York is the Response and Recovery Branch Director for the Kansas Division of Emergency Management and is the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) Coordinator for the State of Kansas. As the Response and Recovery Branch Director, Jonathan is responsible for coordinating outreach to counties before, during, and after an emergency or disaster that may be beyond the capabilities of local governments; management of the state emergency operations center, coordinating the state's response and recovery actions with local governments, state agencies, Kansas National Guard, federal agencies, voluntary organizations, and private sector partners; and coordination of federal disaster recovery programs. Jonathan has been active in EMAC, serving on the EMAC Executive Task Force as the Lead State Representative for Region VII states (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska) from 2011-2015 and as the Chair and National Coordinating State Leader from March 2016-March 2018, during which time he was responsible for operational oversight of the compact, including the 2017 hyperactive Atlantic hurricane season. Jonathan currently serves on the EMAC Executive Task Force as the past chair and has deployed through EMAC as a member of an A-Team to assist states with interstate resource coordination and served as an EMAC Technical Specialist at the Federal Emergency Management Agency National Response Coordination Center in Washington, DC. Prior to joining Kansas Division of Emergency Management in February 2009, Jonathan was the Emergency Management Director in Marshall County, Kansas and a member of the Northeast Kansas Incident Management Team.

Jeff Saunders

Sponsoring Agency Chief/Director
Texas Task Force 1



Jeff has over 30 years in emergency services; starting as a seasonal fire fighter. He worked as a structural firefighter in New Mexico with Santa Fe County Fire Department, including six years as a District Chief and five years as Assistant Chief of Operations. As the Operations Chief, he implemented and managed the county wide technical rescue team. He was active with New Mexico Task Force 1, serving as a Rescue Specialist, Heavy Rigging Specialist, and Task Force Leader. From 2004 to 2015 Jeff was the TX-TF1 Operations Chief coordinating US&R response and readiness including structural collapse, overhead, and flood and swiftwater mitigation. Currently as the TX-TF1 Director he coordinates and facilitates the catastrophic search and rescue requirements for the State of Texas.

Jake Ganieany

Response, Mitigation & Recovery Bureau Chief
EMAC Coordinator
Montana Division of Disaster & Emergency Services



As the Response, Mitigation & Recovery Bureau Chief, Jake exercises overall management responsibility for the coordination of the State's response to assist local agencies. In consultation with the Agency Administrator, Jake determines priorities for response and recovery efforts and ensures that all State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) actions are accomplished in accordance with established agency policies and procedures and the Montana Code Annotated. In March of 2019, Jake was voted in as the EMAC Executive Task Force, Chair Elect. Jake has been with MT DES since June of 2017, prior to that he spent 25 years in the Montana Army National Guard and the United States Marine Corps. Jake has two deployments to Iraq as a combat Infantryman and a Battalion Planning Chief. Before retirement, Jake spent his final four years as the Operations Chief for the Director of Military Support and as the First Sergeant for the 1-163rd Combined Arms Battalion. Jake earned his bachelor's degree in Emergency and Disaster Management in 2017 and will begin working towards his master's degree in the fall of 2019. Jake enjoys golfing, snowboarding and running marathons. Jake lives in Helena with his wife, who works for the Red Cross as Service to Armed Forces Program Manager, and he has two kids.