



Program News for the week ending August 17, 2018

Higher Education Program Updates

Greetings and salutations to the emergency management and homeland security academic community from Dan Paulette-Chapman, Branch Chief for the National Training and Education System team at FEMA. While Wendy's out this week on much-deserved leave, I'm pleased to write you today and give you a brief, probably *too brief*, update on a number of key priorities that your NTES team is working on beyond those you may be more familiar with through the Higher Education program. There are a number of exciting projects underway currently that I feel will be transformative to the profession of emergency management in particular, and as always I welcome your engagement, energy, and intellect to join us in these endeavors! As I discussed at the recent Higher Education Symposium, when it comes to the *training* element (the "T" in NTES) a key focus for the NTES team is the National Qualification System.

The National Qualification System (NQS): As you may recall, FEMA is leading a whole community effort to strengthen the Resource Management component of the National Incident Management system (NIMS), which provides a nationwide approach to enable stakeholders to work together to manage all threats and hazards, regardless of the incident's cause or size. FEMA has developed the National Qualification System (NQS), which provides a foundational guideline on the typing of personnel resources within the NIMS framework, plus supporting tools. FEMA also has crafted the NIMS Job Titles/Position Qualifications and accompanying Position Task Books (PTB), and the NIMS Guideline for Mutual Aid. As I bet you're already thinking, there are very many implications that the advent of the National Qualification System (NQS) will bring to the landscape of emergency management practice nationwide, particularly when it comes to training and education. Key among these involve our figuring out, as a community of practice:

- **Efficient Task-to-Training Alignment** – The NQS Position Task Books (PTBs) contain detailed descriptions of the required tasks that form the performance 'backbone' of each position. It is absolutely crucial, then, that any training requirements in these PTBs align directly and specifically to these tasks. Too much or overly repetitive training and we risk wasting many thousands of dollars per year nationwide in unnecessary training time. Too few or the wrong training requirements and we risk building a national incident workforce that's not able to meet the needs of our citizens. Achieving this "Goldilocks' Zone" of training requirements, therefore, is ideal – and the only way to do that in a defensible manner is to deploy a sound, efficient and effective NTES methodology. **I invite you to help us do this!** Please talk with Wendy or Barbara about how you might be able to get involved in this aspect – our goal is to have a Version 1.0 of the methodology ready by the end of September, and to engage with you and many others in the months thereafter to get it right.
- **Training Delivery Capacity Analysis and Coordination** – So, let's assume we get the right trainings associated with the NQS through this methodology. We're done, right? Far from it! A follow-on challenge for the NTES team is doing everything we can to ensure that the true National Training and Education System (the real system that we all belong to that consists of the nationwide network of students, training providers, and higher education partners building a more secure and

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resilient nation) is ready to meet what we imagine will be an influx of new trainees as States, locals, tribal nation partners, territories, and other ‘Authorities Having Jurisdiction’ (NQS term!) adopt the NQS model and assign PTBs to their emergency management professionals. We must do all we can to ensure that personnel with NQS positions have every opportunity to achieve the training that they need to speed them towards full qualification. **Let’s bring you in on the conversation!**

- **Analysis to Drive the Evolution of Training** – To pull the thread further, once we have the methodology and are doing everything we can to meet the current requirement signal we are sure to uncover gaps, shortfalls, and other inefficiencies in the training ecosystem. What courseware is simply not there? What needs to be updated? What modalities need to change to meet the need? Can we reconfigure courses, smash them together, and otherwise effectively “slice and dice” where appropriate to get to the right answer? Imagine a system where there will occasionally, through no one’s fault, be blockages that simply don’t facilitate learning what needs to be learned. Analysis of the data that we expect to receive from the NQS OneResponder System (tentatively going live in December of 2018!) should help the entire emergency management community make the best possible decisions to build capabilities. **What can the academic community tell us about how to do this in the smartest possible way?**
- **Integration Across the Training Landscape** – Last but not least, ensuring we are as integrated and optimized at FEMA and beyond to meet these challenges above involves a significant amount of legwork and strategic communications. We have forged new partnerships with FEMA’s own internal workforce training community, and are identifying new partnerships across the whole community to get the job done. This includes new contacts with the National Wildfire Coordination Group (NWCG), the All-Hazards Incident Management Team Association (AHIMTA), the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), and the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA), among many others. **This means you – come join us!**

When it comes to Higher Education, I foresee a great deal of room for the emergency management and homeland security academic community to get involved in the coming months as we move out in these important areas. I’ll be working with Wendy and Barbara on how best to ensure your crucial voice and perspectives are brought in on the front end. This may involve Focus and/or Significant Issue Groups, invitations to working sessions, webinars to keep everyone up to date, and more. To get involved, please let Wendy and Barbara know of your interest(s), and we’ll go from there.

Finally, my great thanks and appreciation to this community for the outstanding work you do each and every day to contribute to a more prepared and resilient nation. I’m fortunate to get to work with you, and look forward to our next in-person engagement. Enjoy the upcoming Labor Day weekend!

Higher Education Program Webinars - The Higher Education Program regularly hosts webinars for the emergency management higher education academic community. If you have a pertinent topic or idea, contact [Wendy Walsh](#).

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Webinar: Highlights from the 43rd Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop, August 21, 2018, 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. ET. The 2018 Workshop was organized around the theme of **Twenty Questions: Looking for Answers to Reduce Disaster Risk**. If you missed this year's event or would like to continue the discussions that started there, the Higher Education Program is hosting an interactive webinar to provide highlights and offer a space for continuing a dialogue about Workshop topics. Presentations will be provided by the Higher Education Program Manager, Natural Hazards Center staff, and presenters, moderators, and participants from this year's event. The discussion will focus on highlights and reflections from our experiences at the Annual Natural Hazards Workshop. [To register](#).

Conference Call-In: **1-800-320-4330, PIN: 376368#**

The Next EM Higher Education Community Conference Call is Friday, August 24 (change of date from the 17th), from 2:00-3:00 PM ET, 800-320-4330, PIN: 376368. Please join us. Learn from the emergency management academic community what is new and exciting in their world. Find out about ongoing projects and discuss higher education community needs that the Higher Education Program can address. Contact [Wendy Walsh](#) with your discussion topics.

The 21st Annual Emergency Management Higher Education Symposium is scheduled for June 3-6, 2019, at FEMA's Emergency Management Institute at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, MD. In the coming months, we will post additional information to the [Hi Ed website](#) as it becomes available.

College List

The Higher Education Program keeps a list of colleges and universities that offer emergency management, homeland security, and related programs. Higher Education staff do not provide college recommendations or discuss the relative merits of the colleges and universities listed. If you have a new program to include or have program updates, send an email to FEMA-emi_collegelist@fema.dhs.gov.

Employment

Emergency Management/Homeland Security Vacancies:

- Emergency Management Specialist (Mitigation), GS 12, CLOSES: 08/23/2018, [FEMA-18-BT-246495-DE](#). Oakland, CA
- Program Analyst, GS 13, CLOSES: 08/20/2018, [FEMA-18-AW-243774-DE](#). Washington, DC
- Financial Management Specialist (Cost Unit Leader), IM 02, CLOSES: 08/23/2018, [FEMA-18-DSR-247544-RSV](#). Various locations.
- Supervisory Emergency Management Specialist (Recovery) (Water Sector Deputy), IC 14, CLOSES: 08/22/2018, [FEMA-18-SCM-248828R-CORE](#). Guaynabo, PR
- Civil Engineer, IC 12-13, CLOSES 08/22/2018, [FEMA-18-CRC-16498B-CORE](#), Sacramento, CA

Higher Education Vacancies:

- [University of Alaska Anchorage](#) – Director of UAA EHS and Risk Management Services
- [University of Southern Mississippi](#) – Manager Certifications and Risk Management

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Internship, Scholarship and Training Opportunities

Upcoming Department of Homeland Security Webinars & Recruitment Events

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) positions posted Aug 14, 2018. [Complete list](#) of positions currently available. You may also view listings and links on [Twitter](#).

BLM Utah 2018 Youth Opportunities to Work on Conservation Projects on Public Lands

Resources

Critical Infrastructure Protection: DHS (Department of Homeland Security) Should Take Actions to Measure Reduction in Chemical Facility Vulnerability and Share Information with First Responders

FEMA Seeks Feedback on Planning Considerations: Evacuation and Shelter-in-Place

The Disaster Information Management Research Center [Disaster Lit®: Database for Disaster Medicine and Public Health](#) database has recently been updated, and is now available.

The resources below were compiled through a variety of sources and included here as interesting and relevant resources for research or classroom use. The links are provided as a convenience and for informational purposes only. They do not constitute any endorsement or approval by FEMA or the Higher Education Program.

Cloud-Based Mapping Could Play a Bigger Role in Disaster Response This Hurricane Season

Federal Disaster Recovery Efforts Are 'Not Sustainable,' Report Says

Homeland Security Grant Return on Investment Report

Is a Lack of Institutional Knowledge Plaguing Emergency Management?

Northern Virginia Community College, Office of Emergency Management and Safety [video](#)

Program Provides an Avenue for Young Public Safety Workforce to Shape the Profession

The Disaster Research Center announced [Valerie Marlowe](#) as Assistant Director for Archives and Collections.

Why a Quiet Hurricane Season Isn't Necessarily a Good Thing

Lizette Peterson-Homer Injury Prevention Grant

Calendar

Customs and Border Protection Frontline Jobs and Internships Webinar, August 23, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. EDT

2018 National Disaster Resilience Conference, November 7-9, 2018. Clearwater Beach, FL.

66th Annual IAEM Conference and EMEX, October 19 – 24, 2018, Grand Rapids, MI

SEASide Webinar: Preparedness and Response for Public Health Emergencies, the Mission of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, September 6, 2018

Download the [FEMA App](#) to receive weather alerts from the NWS for up to five different locations anywhere in the U.S.

[Sign up via our free e-mail subscription service](#) to receive notifications and information updates.

FEMA's mission is helping people before, during and after disasters

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