

Monthly Newsletter



EMI Hosts the 2023 National Preparedness Symposium

EMI recently hosted the **2023 National Preparedness Symposium**. More than 250 emergency management training, exercise, and planning officials from Federal, state, local, tribal, and other FEMA partners attended the event, which was held May 23–25 at the National Emergency Training Center campus in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

The National Preparedness Symposium provides an opportunity for participants to collaborate, share best practices, and receive information on guidance, tools, and resources, and discuss current and future programs and initiatives.

The Keynote address featured Victoria Salinas, Senior Official Performing the Duties of Deputy Administrator for Resilience. During her remarks, Ms. Salinas cited that preparedness requires constant vigilance, and that training and planning are cornerstones to keeping communities resilient.

FEMA remains committed to collaborating with our partners and doing our part to provide tools to support preparedness, response, and recovery for communities with diverse needs.

Additional information regarding national preparedness can be found at [Exercise and Preparedness Tools](https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness/exercises/tools) (<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness/exercises/tools>) and [National Preparedness Course Catalogue](https://www.firstrespondertraining.gov/frts/npccatalog) (<https://www.firstrespondertraining.gov/frts/npccatalog>).

News from the EMI Branches

Preparedness:

National Qualification System (NQS) notes from the National Preparedness Symposium: FEMA's National Integration Center (NIC), EMI and several State Training Officers presented information on NQS implementation during the Symposium at EMI May 23–25, 2023. Some key takeaways from these presentations are provided here for those readers that were unable to attend.

- The NIC and EMI delivered presentations on NQS development and on Training for NQS. Key take aways from these sessions were the linkage of the training and tools to implementation and the NQS implementation timeline. NQS implementation guidance gives States until 2024 to develop an implementation plan and begin issuing Position Task Books (PTB) for their deployable positions, with these efforts continuing into 2025. It was

emphasized that States utilizing a recognized qualification system such as National Wildland Coordination Group (NWCG) or All-Hazards Incident Management Team Association (AHIMTA) are already following the intent of NQS implementation guidance.

- A panel discussion led by the States of New York, Minnesota and New Hampshire outlined their diverse approaches to NQS implementation. Some common advice from the presenters included:
 - Start small. Many of the states started NQS implementation with their EOCs before expanding it to other deployable resources.
 - Get leadership buy-in early on for the importance of the implementation efforts and linkage of NQS implementation to EMPG funding.
 - Link the work you have already done on position qualification to NQS implementation. If you are already using a system, correlate this to NQS standards and utilize recognition of prior learning to qualify already trained and experienced personnel.
 - Find partners in other established programs such as adjoining States, the NWCG, U.S. Coast Guard, and the AHIMTA. Other organizations with established position qualification programs can be of great assistance in helping your State with NQS implementation.

Mitigation:

Building Science: The **E0279 Retrofitting Floodprone Residential Buildings** course scheduled for September 11–14, 2023, at EMI has been canceled. In FY24 the Regions will be able to request L offerings of this updated course. If you have any questions, contact the EMI Mitigation Branch at: fema-emi-mit@fema.dhs.gov.

Pending Courses for Deactivation and Retirement: Below is a list of Mitigation courses that are pending being made Inactive until updated due to the content being outdated as well as courses that are pending being retired due to outdated content that is not planned to be maintained. If you have any concerns about this change in status for these courses, please send your comments to the EMI Mitigation mailbox at: fema-emi-mit@fema.dhs.gov. **The deadline for accepting comments is June 30, 2023.** After that time a final decision will be made on the status of these courses.

Pending Courses to be made INACTIVE	
Course Code	Course Title
E0393	Mitigation for Emergency Managers
IS0393.b	Introduction to Hazard Mitigation
E/L/K2460	Advanced Building Science Series 1

Pending Courses to be RETIRED	
Course Code	Course Title
E/L0291	Community Dam Safety, Preparedness and Mitigation
K1274	Close-the-Gap Training for EL0273 Instructors
E/K8530*	FEMA/State Hazard Mitigation Seminar (HMA Stakeholder Workshop)
E/K8535*	National Dam Safety Program Technical Seminar

*These events will still take place at the National Emergency Training Center but will not be hosted by EMI as they are not formal training courses and participants do not receive CEUs.

Hazard Mitigation Assistance: Seats are still open for the pilot offerings of **E/L0213 Hazard Mitigation Assistance: Application Review and Evaluation** and **E/L0214 Hazard Mitigation Assistance: Project Implementation and Closeout** convening July 24–26, 2023. Registration is open via the NETC Online Admissions system. Applications must be

submitted for both courses to be considered for enrollment. For additional information on this course, contact the EMI Mitigation Branch at fema-emi-mit@fema.dhs.gov.

Hazard Mitigation Planning: The FEMA Mitigation Planning Program along with EMI has updated its local hazard mitigation planning training. The new Local Mitigation Planning Workshop course materials are available on the EMI G-course repository by State Training Officers. This instructor-led training reflects the [Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_local-mitigation-planning-policy-guide_042022.pdf) (https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_local-mitigation-planning-policy-guide_042022.pdf) which went into effect April 19, 2023. The training covers the basics of mitigation planning for local communities. Through this training participants learn about the planning process, assessing risks, and developing and implementing effective mitigation strategies.

General Mitigation Information: Applications will be processed through the NETC Online Application system. If you need Mitigation courses to support a PTB, please contact the FEMA Incident Workforce Academy (FIWA)/Workforce Development Division (WDD) training team at fema-fqs-training@fema.dhs.gov to coordinate. WDD funding is no longer available for EMI resident training.

Emergency Management Professional Program (EMPP):

The EMPP Academies and the PIO Program continue with a full slate of course offerings around the country in June 2023. Here is a list of the EMPP courses scheduled in the field (L), on campus (E), or online (K) during this month:

Basic Academy Course Number	Location	Dates
L0146	NY	June 5–6
L0101	NV	June 5–9
K0101	Online	June 5–16
L0105	MA	June 7–9
L0105	NY	June 7–9
L0102	AR	June 12–14
E0101	Emmitsburg, MD	June 12–16
L0105	OK	June 13–15
L0103	AR	June 15–16
L0105	CA	June 19–21
L0110	SC	June 19–23
L0105	CO	June 20–22
L0105	WA	June 20–22
L0105	OH	June 21–23
L0146	LA	June 26–27
K0102	Online	June 26–30
L0105	LA	June 28–30
Public Information Officer Program	Location	Dates
L0388*	CA	June 5–9
L0388*	SC	June 5–9
Advanced Academy Course Number	Location	Dates
L0453**	NC	June 5–9
L0453**	NV	June 12–16
Executive Academy Course Number	Location	Dates
L0684***	Emmitsburg, MD	June 12–15

*Only open to accepted Advanced Public Information course students

**Only open to accepted Advanced Academy students

***Only open to accepted Executive Academy students

EMPP is accepting applications for the Fiscal Year 2024 Advanced Academy, Executive Academy, and Master Public Information Officer course. The deadline for receiving applications is June 1, 2023. Please use these links for information on how to apply:

[How to Apply to the National Emergency Management Advanced Academy](#)

(<https://training.fema.gov/empp/applytoadvancedacademy.aspx>)

[National Emergency Management Executive Academy - Apply](#)

(<https://training.fema.gov/empp/applytoexecutiveacademy.aspx>)

[Master Public Information Officer Program](#)

(<https://training.fema.gov/programs/pio/masterpio.aspx>)

The Fiscal Year 2024 Advanced Academy and Executive Academy selection panel will meet to review applications and approve selected candidates June 26–29, 2023

The Basic Academy is seeking regional partners to host the L0110 Train-the-Trainer course in Fiscal Year 2024. Any interested training partners please contact:

Jeff Januchowski at: jeffrey.januchowski@fema.dhs.gov or

Rich Bashoum at: richard.bashoum@fema.dhs.gov.

Integrated Emergency Management (IEM):

E0930 Community-Specific Integrated Emergency Management Course (IEMC): On May 15–18, 2023, EMI hosted a Community-Specific IEMC for Pierce County, Washington, at the NETC in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The primary focus of this course was to address the potential of a Mt. Rainier eruption, triggering a lahar event. The course delivery appropriately coincided with Volcano Awareness Month.

More than 60 participants attended the course, including elected and senior officials, representatives from the Pierce County Department of Emergency Management, stakeholders from the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), public utility partners, the National Weather Service (NWS), and the United States Geological Survey (USGS). The course provided a comprehensive understanding of essential emergency management principles. This knowledge will empower these individuals to better prepare their community for future disasters.

Throughout the week, the participants engaged in three separate exercises, actively working through response and recovery scenarios. Discussions encompassed critical aspects such as evacuations, mass care, response activities, communications, debris removal, and recovery efforts. The goal was to equip the attendees with the necessary tools and strategies to effectively manage a community disaster situation before, during, and after its occurrence.

FY2024 Master Exercise Practitioner Program (MEPP) Application Period: The Master Exercise Practitioner Program is accepting applications until July 1. MEPP is designed for advanced exercise practitioners with 3–5 years of experience in HSEEP exercises. Please visit the [MEPP website](#) (<https://training.fema.gov/programs/nsec/mepp/>) for more information on the program and application requirements.

Planning Practitioner Program (PPP): The application period for the FY24 Series of the Planning Practitioner Program opened on May 1 and closes July 1. Information about the program and application review process is included in

this issue of the EMI Newsletter and can be found on the [Planning Practitioner Program website](https://training.fema.gov/programs/planning-practitioner/#how-to-apply) (<https://training.fema.gov/programs/planning-practitioner/#how-to-apply>).

Mission Support (MS):

Do you like to teach? - E/L/K/G 0141, Instructional Presentation and Evaluation Skills, can use your skills! This course is a pre-requisite to teach other FEMA courses, or to obtain certain FEMA certifications. The E/L/K/G 0141 course is in high demand, and next year EMI will offer four classes on campus. EMI has instructors for three of the courses; however, we are in need. EMI needs instructors for the E/L/K/G 0141 courses next year, and in general, because currently there are only four instructors available. We don't want to over burden them or their program offices. Unlike many other EMI courses, instructors for E/L/K/G 0141 are **NOT** funded. Our E/L/K/G 0141 instructors are all volunteers. If you are interested, please contact Sheila McCartney, sheila.mccartney@fema.dhs.gov or 202-709-0787. You may also audit/observe any of the upcoming course deliveries to see if this is something you are interested in pursuing and your leadership will approve.

Ask a Course Manager

Recently we had students who completed G0300 and G0400 in our jurisdiction reaching out asking why their certificates were not being accepted by another state or jurisdiction. How can we ensure equivalency of our G certificates in other jurisdictions?

ICS-300 and ICS-400 are courses that are delivered by Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), managed primarily by: Federal Partners, Tribes, and States. It is up to each AHJ to determine equivalency of training certificates. The NIMS Training Program, released in May of 2020, provides guidance on equivalency, specifically on page 26. We, FEMA, recommend that AHJ include the date span of the course on their G certificates as well as the following verbiage: "This course was conducted in accordance with the NIMS Training Program (2020)". In addition, we recommend ICS-300 and ICS-400 not be delivered back-to-back and allow a reasonable amount of time between trainings for students to gain operational experience and understanding to further their knowledge, skills, and abilities in responding to expanding incidents. This information can be found in the NIMS Training Program on page 14, which can be accessed here: [NIMS Training Program](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_nims_training-program-may-2020_0.pdf). (https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_nims_training-program-may-2020_0.pdf)

Focus Groups and SMEs from across the Nation determined that training was not being conducted to standard, and students were not prepared to be in ICS-300 and ICS-400 courses. Entirely too much time was being taken, during the delivery of these courses, to bring students up to par when they lacked operational experience. ICS-300 and ICS-400 are designed to give students skills to carry to the field, and without the experience, they lack the skills and knowledge needed to be successful. As part of this effort, the NIMS Training Program further recommends that anyone going to take ICS-300 should take ICS-200 in a classroom.

The intent of the NIMS Training Program, regarding the ICS-300 and ICS-400, is to ensure that the right people are taking the training, based on the knowledge, skills and abilities that are required to respond to expanding and complex incidents, and further within an Area Command Structure, or Multi Agency Coordination entity. The National Preparedness Course Catalog found here: National Training and Education Division [National Preparedness Course Catalog](https://www.firstrespondertraining.gov/frts/npccatalog?catalog=EMI) (<https://www.firstrespondertraining.gov/frts/npccatalog?catalog=EMI>), provides more information on the target audience of the classes. Below are the excerpts of the selection criteria, for a quick glimpse, to help facilitate screening for students for the ICS-300 and ICS-400, helping to get the right people to the right training, based on their incident response roles, as well as the Incident Type and complexity.

ICS-300 Selection Criteria: Individuals who may assume a supervisory role in incidents. Note: During a Type 3 incident, some or all the Command and General Staff positions may be activated, as well as Division/Group Supervisor and/or Unit Leader level positions. These incidents may extend into multiple operational periods.

ICS-400 Selection Criteria: The target audience for this course is senior personnel who are expected to perform in a management capacity in an Area Command or Multi-Agency Coordination Entity.

For more information, please contact Sabra Arnold at fema-emi-ics-courses@fema.dhs.gov

Current Training Opportunities:

Please refer to the [EMI Course Schedule](https://training.fema.gov/emicourses/schedules.aspx) (<https://training.fema.gov/emicourses/schedules.aspx>) for a complete list of upcoming course offerings.

For More Information:

- [EMI Course Catalog](https://www.firstrespondertraining.gov/frtserver/catalogs/EMI_course_catalog.pdf?_=1603823874749)
(https://www.firstrespondertraining.gov/frtserver/catalogs/EMI_course_catalog.pdf?_=1603823874749)
- [EMI Course Schedule](https://training.fema.gov/emicourses/schedules.aspx)
(<https://training.fema.gov/emicourses/schedules.aspx>)
- [EMI Student Portal](https://training.fema.gov/student/sssp.aspx) (<https://training.fema.gov/student/sssp.aspx>)
- [EMI Programs and Activities](https://training.fema.gov/programs)
(<https://training.fema.gov/programs>)
- [State Training Officers Contact List](https://training.fema.gov/programs/aps/stolist.aspx)
(<https://training.fema.gov/programs/aps/stolist.aspx>)
- [Independent Study Program FAQs](https://training.fema.gov/is/isfaq.aspx) (<https://training.fema.gov/is/isfaq.aspx>)
- [FEMA Student Identification \(SID\) System website](https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid) (<https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid>)

EMI Program Points-of-Contact:

EMI Branch	Email
EMPP	empp@fema.dhs.gov
IEM	fema-emi-iemb@fema.dhs.gov
Mission Support	fema-ms-branch@fema.dhs.gov
Mitigation	fema-emi-mit@fema.dhs.gov
Preparedness	fema-emi-prepbranch@fema.dhs.gov
Response & Recovery	fema-emi-RandR@fema.dhs.gov
G-course Program	fema-G-course@fema.dhs.gov
General EMI Inquiries	emiactionoffice@fema.dhs.gov
Independent Study	independent.study@fema.dhs.gov
NETC Admissions	netcadmissions@fema.dhs.gov

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FEMA Regions Fiscal Year 2024 Planning Practitioner Program Application Review Process

Overview

- Applications have been received inside the NETC Online Application system
- Paper applications are no longer accepted
- Each FEMA Region will have 6-7 slots to fill
- Headquarter elements will NOT be included in regional slots (Example: FEMA HQ will not count toward FEMA RIII slots)
- Late or incomplete applications will NOT be accepted
- If you feel like you received an application in error (maybe wrong region, or a HQ element) send james.greenshields@fema.dhs.gov an email and we will get it corrected

Timeline

- Thursday, July 13 – FEMA Regions receive their applicant packages via email and begin their review processes
- Strongly suggested that the RTMs work alongside the Regional Planning elements for selections
- Friday, July 28 – FEMA Regions notify EMI of their 6-7 selected applicants (priority order)
 - Send your prioritized list of 6-7 applicants to FEMA-EMI-IEMB@fema.dhs.gov and james.greenshields@fema.dhs.gov by July 29
- Early August – Admissions works to put students in the two Cohorts
 - Cohort FY24- 1 (E0237: Oct 16-20, 2023 & E0238: May 13-17, 2024)
 - Cohort FY24- 2 (E0237: Nov 13-17, 2023 & E0238: Jun 10-14, 2024)
- August 15 – Students are notified via NETC Admissions of the final decision

Target Audience

The Planning Practitioner Program series is designed for experienced individuals with significant responsibility in operational planning programs

- Applicants should have ongoing planning requirement within their current role (This is the MOST important criteria!) - The Capstone will require candidates to work on planning assignments within their organization
- Applicants should have at least 3-5 years of experience in emergency management and/or planning activities -the strength of package can be considered if this requirement is not met
- 75% or more job duties related to planning program -the strength of package can be considered if this requirement is not met
- Applicants should be well-versed in challenges related to planning process and conduct
- Whole community applicants with a specific planning program tie to their Emergency Management Agency



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