

# Monthly Newsletter



FEMA



NATIONAL DISASTER &  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
UNIVERSITY



*Happy Holidays*



## NDEMU Staff Deployed in Various Roles to Support Survivors of Hurricanes Helene and Milton

While NDEMU did its best to maintain business as usual, some staff were deployed to assist survivors in the states impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton. NDEMU would like to recognize those staff members who deployed, and we'd like to thank those staff members that stayed and picked up the work left behind.



NDEMU Training Specialist, Dr. Jeff Januchowski stood up the Training Unit for DR4831-VA for more than 400 deployed personnel. Training consisted of virtual and in-person briefings, webinars, and classes held for the Joint Field Office (JFO) in Richmond, the Branch Office in Bristol, and the Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) that made up the disaster. The Disaster Field Training Operations (DFTO) provides training to the Federal disaster workforce in support of FEMA's mission. Jeff led a professional team of communicators that specializes in all things training. The DFTO Cadre works throughout FEMA to improve employee performance through training.

NDEMU Vanguard Executive Director Kristen Fish deployed as part of the National Incident Management Assistance Team (N-IMAT) Gold alongside National Preparedness Directorate (NPD) Assistant Administrator (AA) Stephanie Dobitsch. As part of the team, Kristen and Stephanie focused on making first contact with the fire chiefs across

Buncombe County and ensuring immediate needs were addressed to include direct delivery of food and water to survivors as part of the “Pods to People” mission.

As a Division Supervisor, Kristen helped coordinate the Title 10 mission, developing plans and directing members of the U.S. Army to conduct route clearance and debris removal so that communities and emergency responders could access previously inaccessible areas and deliver needed supplies; traversing up mountainsides and across communities to reach those areas hardest hit. Kristen met with community and faith leaders across 10 fire districts, identifying isolated communities and vulnerable populations, and alongside the U.S. Army, delivered food and water direct to survivors, and identified and fulfilled unmet medical needs.

As the initial lead for Mass Care in Buncombe County, AA Dobitsch brought together city and county officials with key Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) to develop community care centers, where community members could access mobile showers, laundry, bathrooms, and cell charging stations. Because of Stephanie’s work, survivors were able to take their first shower, clean their clothes, and take care of their basic needs so that they could begin to focus on recovery.

Integrated Emergency Management Branch (IEMB) Branch Chief, Barry Breslin, is deployed as National Emergency Training Center (NETC) Strategic Workforce Augmentation Team (SWAT) POC. He set up a collaborative NETC chat for the entire team. This chat has become an invaluable resource for us, making it easier to find answers and get the support we need—often for those particularly difficult questions! Barry was available at all hours, demonstrating unwavering dedication to ensuring our team has the help we need when we need it. His responsiveness and willingness to go above and beyond have truly made a difference for our group. Kudos to Barry, for his hard work and for always being there to support the team.

Thanks to Melissa Davis for her support during SWAT operations. As one of the two remaining Curriculum Standards and Instructional Technology (CSIT) Branch members not deployed to the field, her assistance made a significant difference to both making sure CSIT kept running and in helping navigate SWAT for her peers. Melissa has been an asset to her fellow SWAT members while deployed in place for this role.

Thanks also goes to Karen Churchill for supporting SWAT operations. Her exceptional assistance was displayed during a recent SWAT issue where she assisted her peers in resolving a particularly challenging situation. Karen stepped in with remarkable patience and expertise, offering invaluable help when it was needed most.

Justin Peterson from the CSIT Branch was deployed in Florida, where he provided critical support as part of FEMA’s Disaster Survivor Assistance (DSA) Program. In this role, he worked directly with impacted communities, helping individuals navigate recovery resources, apply for assistance, and access vital information needed during this challenging time. Justin’s efforts were essential to FEMA’s mission, bringing direct, compassionate support to survivors to help them rebuild and regain stability after disaster.

Reg Godfrey from the IEMB was stationed at the JFO Duke Annex in Durham, North Carolina, where he played a key role in coordinating training and resources for the Multi-Agency Shelter Transition Team (MASTT). His work ensured that MASTT members were equipped with the knowledge and tools needed to facilitate a smooth and efficient transition for those moving from emergency shelters to more stable housing solutions.

Don Hammond, Training Tech for the IEMB, was in Madison County, North Carolina, stationed at the Marshall County Library, where he was tasked with providing applicant services. He managed initial intake, followed up on applications, and ensured community members received the support they needed. Beyond his primary

responsibilities, Don also stepped in to troubleshoot equipment issues, including scanner setup and a monitor, to enhance service efficiency. His commitment was evident as he operated just a mile from storm-impacted areas, bringing direct assistance to a community in need. Thank you, Don, for your adaptability and dedication in challenging conditions!

Several NDEMU staff also deployed to the National Response Coordination Center (NRCC) at FEMA HQ. Those staff members included Jeff Hice, Sabra Arnold, Bob Patrick, Melissa Jabat, Shermaine Booker, Joe Brady, and Rocky Loera. Their efforts helped to ensure resources were in place before, during, and after landfall.

In addition to spending time at the NRCC, Dan Lubman from our Preparedness Branch also deployed to McDowell County, North Carolina, where he actively worked in a DRC to provide Hazard Mitigation Community Education and Outreach. In this role, Dan engaged directly with community members, offering guidance on reducing future risks and strengthening resilience against potential disasters. His work was vital to empowering individuals with knowledge and strategies that help safeguard homes, businesses, and communities.

## Announcement

### Course Update Regarding Flood Fight Operations

NDEMU would like to inform you of an administrative update to one of its courses. The course previously known as **G0361: Flood Fight Operations** has been updated to **G0372: Flood Response Operations**.

Please note that this change reflects only a course number and title update for administrative purposes. The content and objectives of the course remain unchanged.

If you have previously completed this course under the G0361 designation, your certificate remains valid, and no further action is required.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this matter. For any questions or further clarification, please feel free to reach out to: [fema-g-courses@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:fema-g-courses@fema.dhs.gov).

## News from the EMI Branches

### Preparedness:

#### Incident Command System (ICS) Forms Training

The first course in a multi-year revision project is live: IS-201.a: Forms Used for the Development of the Incident Action Plan and Incident Management. It takes a deeper look at the forms used in the Incident Action Plan, the foundational forms, as well as commonly used forms for incident response and event planning. Content on each ICS form in the new revision is being designed to assist responders with speed to competency and build upon previous learning. The course is organized in smaller learning chunks, with each ICS form useable as stand-alone micro-learning content. Each micro-learning topic in the new course will enable students to take a deeper look into each ICS form to learn about the purpose, detailed preparation, and distribution of the form.

The old IS-201 course will remain active until January 31, 2025. Future NIMS ICS Position-Specific courses will require the completion of IS-201.a as a prerequisite training.

For more information about Incident Management Team (IMT) Training, contact Bob Patrick, IMT Training Delivery Lead, at: [robert.patrick@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:robert.patrick@fema.dhs.gov).



For more information about ICS Training, contact Sabra Arnold, ICS Training Delivery Lead, at: [sabrarenee.arnold@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:sabrarenee.arnold@fema.dhs.gov).

## Integrated Emergency Management (IEM):

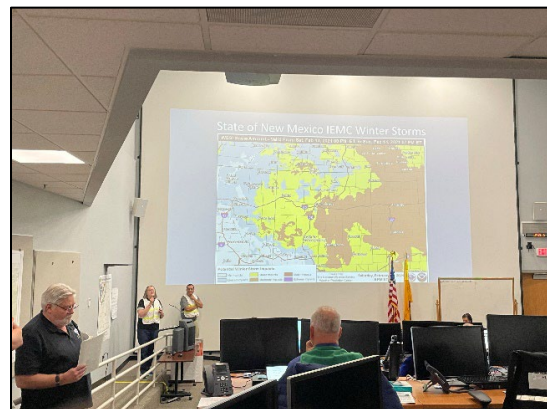
**Integrated Emergency Management Course (IEMC):** The Integrated Emergency Management Branch was in the City of Fairhope, Alabama, teaming up with the City and its partners to deliver a Community Specific – Integrated Emergency Management Course (IEMC) for the City. Fairhope is located at the northeastern end of Mobile Bay and requested an IEMC as part of its preparedness effort with Baldwin County.

The City, County Emergency Management, water/power/transportation/healthcare services, and National Guard discussed important emergency management topics. The National Weather Service was on hand to discuss critical weather impacts and situational awareness. The theme of the week focused on weather impacts on City services and infrastructure, long-term power outages, and cascading effects such as documentation.



In November, the IEM Branch traveled to Santa Fe to deliver an IEMC for the State of New Mexico. More than 50 participants across several State and Federal agencies came together to build partnerships and discuss capabilities. The 4-day course included three tabletop exercises and a large functional exercise on the last day, focusing on a major winter storm affecting much of the State.

The IEMC Program is designed to provide all communities and state, local, tribal, territorial, and specialized jurisdictions throughout the United States with a training program designed specifically to enhance the skillsets and familiarity of Emergency Operations Center (EOC) personnel. The IEMC can be a vital component of your Integrated Preparedness Plan (IPP). For additional information on the IEMC Program, please contact the Integrated Emergency Management Branch at [fema-emi-iemb@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:fema-emi-iemb@fema.dhs.gov), or you can reach out to Patrick J. Flynn, the IEMC Program Manager, at [patrick.flynn.2@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:patrick.flynn.2@fema.dhs.gov) with any questions about the Program.



## Emergency Management Professional Program (EMPP):

The EMPP Academies and the PIO Program continue with a full slate of course offerings around the country this month.

Here is a list of the EMPP courses scheduled in the field (L), on campus (E), or online (K) for December 2024:

Basic Academy Course Number*	Location	Dates
L0101*	Albuquerque, NM	December 2–6
E0146	Emmitsburg, MD	December 2–3
L0102*	Hanover, MD	December 2–4
L0102*	Fort Harrison, MT	December 3–5
L0105*	Oriskany, NY	December 3–5
L0105*	Houston, TX	December 3–5
L0105*	Puyallup, WA	December 3–5
E0102	Emmitsburg, MD	December 4–6
L0103*	Hanover, MD	December 5–6
E0103	Emmitsburg, MD	December 9–10
L0146*	Cromwell, CT	December 9–10
K0103	Online	December 9–12
L0146*	New Kent, VA	December 10–11
E0102	Emmitsburg, VA (TDEM)	December 10–12
L0105*	Grafton, MA	December 10–12
L0105*	Warren, OH	December 10–12
L0105*	Pearl, MS	December 11–13
L0105*	Adel, IA	December 11–13
E0105	Emmitsburg, MD	December 11–13
L0103*	Cromwell, CT	December 11–13
L0105*	Tillamook, OR	December 18–20
L0103*	San Antonio, TX	December 30–31
Advanced Academy Course Number	Location	Dates
L0451**	Royal Oak, MI	December 2–6
L0451**	Honolulu, HI	December 9–13
Public Information Officer Course Number	Location	Dates
E0389***	Emmitsburg, MD	December 2–6
L0388***	Washington, DC	December 9–13

\*These offerings are by invitation only.

\*\*Only open to accepted Advanced Academy students.

\*\*\*Only open to accepted Master Public Information Officer students.

For more information about the Basic Academy, please contact: Rich Bashioum at: [richard.bashioum@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:richard.bashioum@fema.dhs.gov).

For more information about the Public Information Officer Program, please contact: Nicole Shutts at: [nicole.shutts@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:nicole.shutts@fema.dhs.gov).

For more information about the Advanced Academy, please contact Doug Kuhn at: [douglas.kuhn@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:douglas.kuhn@fema.dhs.gov).

## Ask a Course Manager:

**What if my state wants to teach a G-course that is no longer on the G-course website and was retired?**

NDEMU-developed and state-delivered courses, also known as G-courses, are delivered at the discretion of the states, by state-approved instructors. If a course has been removed from the G-course website, then you can contact the

Course Manager to determine if the course is undergoing revision or if there is some other reason. In this case, it is up to the state to decide to wait for the updated material. If a G-course has been retired, then it is up to the state to determine whether to deliver the course in its last version before retirement.

### Current Training Opportunities:

Please refer to the [NDEMU Course Schedule](#) for a complete list of upcoming course offerings.

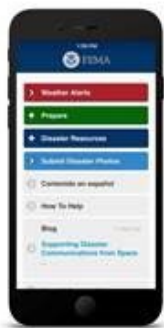
### For More Information:

- [NDEMU Course Catalog](#)
- [NDEMU Course Schedule](#)
- [NDEMU Student Portal](#)
- [NDEMU Programs and Activities](#)
- [State Training Officers Contact List](#)
- [Independent Study Program FAQs](#)
- [FEMA Student Identification \(SID\) System website](#)

### NDEMU Program Points of Contact:

EMI Branch	Email
EMPP	<a href="mailto:empp@fema.dhs.gov">empp@fema.dhs.gov</a>
IEM	<a href="mailto:fema-emi-iemb@fema.dhs.gov">fema-emi-iemb@fema.dhs.gov</a>
Mission Support	<a href="mailto:fema-ms-branch@fema.dhs.gov">fema-ms-branch@fema.dhs.gov</a>
Mitigation	<a href="mailto:fema-emi-mit@fema.dhs.gov">fema-emi-mit@fema.dhs.gov</a>
Preparedness	<a href="mailto:fema-emi-prepbranch@fema.dhs.gov">fema-emi-prepbranch@fema.dhs.gov</a>
Response & Recovery	<a href="mailto:fema-emi-RandR@fema.dhs.gov">fema-emi-RandR@fema.dhs.gov</a>
G-course Program	<a href="mailto:fema-G-course@fema.dhs.gov">fema-G-course@fema.dhs.gov</a>
General NDEMU Inquiries	<a href="mailto:emiactionoffice@fema.dhs.gov">emiactionoffice@fema.dhs.gov</a>
Independent Study	<a href="mailto:independent.study@fema.dhs.gov">independent.study@fema.dhs.gov</a>
NETC Admissions	<a href="mailto:netcadmissions@fema.dhs.gov">netcadmissions@fema.dhs.gov</a>

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