



## Vermont Emergency Preparedness Conference September 29 & 30

The annual Vermont Emergency Preparedness Conference will be held this year on September 29 & 30, but it will look a lot different. COVID-19 has pushed the conference on-line.

To register for the conference visit the state of Vermont Learning Management System website: <https://vermont.csod.com>

Presentations will last between 30 and 45 minutes between 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. each day.

Sessions include those on public information during the pandemic, protecting Vermont's historic resources, critical infrastructure, emergency planning for special events, and mental health and burnout, among others.

Join us Wednesday September 30th at 1:00pm to for the awarding of this year's EMD of the Year.

Questions about the conference can be sent to [brittany.marquette@vermont.gov](mailto:brittany.marquette@vermont.gov), for help with registration visit: [dps.emhstraining@vermont.gov](mailto:dps.emhstraining@vermont.gov)

### 2020 VIRTUAL VERMONT EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CONFERENCE September 29 & 30, 2020

Conference Registration is now open!

All attendees **must** pre-register in order to receive the conference link.

Registration via the Learning Management System can be found at: <https://vermont.csod.com/>

Don't have an account? Click [here](#) to create one.

Questions about conference?  
Contact [Brittany.marquette@vermont.gov](mailto:brittany.marquette@vermont.gov)

Need help with registration?  
Contact [dps.emhstraining@vermont.gov](mailto:dps.emhstraining@vermont.gov)

### Conference Schedule

Day 1		Day 2	
12:30	Login and join us!	12:30	Login and join us!
1:00	Welcome and Opening Comments	1:00	Welcome & EMD Awards
1:15	Public Information during the COVID-19 pandemic	1:15	Emergency Planning for Special Events
1:45	Break	1:45	Break
2:00	The Power of Partnerships: Protecting Vermont's Cultural and Historic Resources	2:00	Weather Planning and Situational Awareness for Events using NWS Websites
2:45	Break	2:45	Break
3:00	Flood Response Training: Rivers and Roads Training Program for Transportation Recovery	3:00	Vermont Critical Infrastructure – Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow
3:45	Break	3:45	Break
4:00	Mental Health Burn-out in Emergency Management	4:00	Don't make it worse – Floodplain Management 101
4:45	Closing Remarks	4:45	Closing Remarks

## Hazard Mitigation Funding Available

The notice of funding opportunity was just released for the first year of FEMA's new annual mitigation funding program, [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\)](#) along with the notice for the annual [Flood Mitigation Assistance \(FMA\)](#) program. The new BRIC program replaces what was previously the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant program.

With this new program, FEMA is focusing on innovative, collaborative projects and nature-based solutions. This includes funding for Project Scoping (previously Advanced Assistance), which is a benefit to communities that have a known hazard but lack funding for an alternatives analysis and to develop a Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA).

For both programs, the application period opens September 30, 2020 with a state deadline of **January 6, 2021**.

### **Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC):**

- **Eligible Applicants:** State agencies, Regional Planning Commissions, and municipalities. Note: FEMA is pushing public-private partnerships and prioritizing funding for those projects which identify collaboration with private entities (to include non-profit organizations, academic institutions, businesses, etc.). So, if you represent, for example, a non-profit organization with a really good project in mind, we will need to team you up with a governmental "sponsor" to act as sub-applicant. Municipalities must have an approved Local Hazard Mitigation Plan at the time of application submittal.
- **Funding Available:** \$600,000 (federal share) set-aside for Vermont with up to \$300,000 available for planning activities. Up to \$50 million is available per sub-application for nationally competitive mitigation projects.
- **Eligible Projects:** Everything that was previously eligible under PDM will still be

eligible, e.g. home buyouts, culvert projects, Local Hazard Mitigation Planning grants, etc. In addition, under BRIC, applicants can apply for:

- Project Scoping (previously called Advanced Assistance)
- Capability- and capacity-building activities
- Non-financial direct technical assistance
- **Management Costs:** 5% of total project costs will be available to sub-applicants for managing the grant award.
- **Cost Share:** 75% federal, 25% local non-federal (cash and/or in-kind); up to 90% federal share for small, impoverished communities.

### **Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA):**

- FMA funds must benefit an NFIP-participating community; ideally those with Repetitive Loss/ Severe Repetitive Loss properties.
- Up to \$600,000 is available per State for Project Scoping to develop community flood mitigation projects that reduce future NFIP flood claims.
- Up to \$30 million can be applied for per sub-applicant for Community Flood Mitigation Projects to address community flood risk to reduce future NFIP flood claims.
- Cost Share: 75% federal, 25% local non-federal (cash and/or in-kind); or up to 90% for Repetitive-Loss and up to 100% for Severe-Repetitive Loss properties.

Reach out to [stephanie.a.smith@vermont.gov](mailto:stephanie.a.smith@vermont.gov) if you have a potential project you would like to discuss or if you have any questions.

## VEM Training Schedule

All Vermont Emergency Management Courses for the remainder of 2020 will be held virtually. Registration via the Learning Management System is required to receive the classroom link.

Interested in hosting a course? Contact [dps.emhstraining@vermont.gov](mailto:dps.emhstraining@vermont.gov) to schedule one today!

### September 2020

Vermont Emergency Preparedness Conference  
September 29 & 30  
1:00—5:00 p.m. each day  
Virtual Learning Event Via Microsoft Teams

### November 2020

State Emergency Operations Center Orientation  
(SEOC Staff ONLY)  
November 12  
9:00—11:30 a.m.  
Virtual Learning Event

G0191 – ICS EOC Interface  
November 14  
8:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.  
Virtual Learning Event

### Coming to a virtual classroom this Fall

ICS 300 – Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents

ICS 402 – ICS Summary for Executives  
America Red Cross Shelter Fundamentals

### Online Training Resource

FEMA Emergency Management Institute's Independent Study online courses are always available at: <https://training.fema.gov/is/>

### VEM Emergency Management Director's Certification Program

Find out more information on our website: <https://vem.vermont.gov/programs/emd/certification>

Planning on completing your certificate and be recognized at this years' virtual conference? Make sure you have completed the following no later than Monday September 14th at noon:

- Enrollment in the EMD course through the LMS
- Completed EMD Certification Program Application submitted to [dps.emhstraining@vermont.gov](mailto:dps.emhstraining@vermont.gov) including supporting exercise documentation and appropriate signatures for verification

## Emergency Preparedness Month

Emergency responders dedicate their lives to helping others. But despite their best efforts, they are often stretched thin during a widespread disaster. That's why individuals need to prepare to help themselves for at least part of a disaster.

September is Preparedness Month, which serves as an opportunity for responders to communicate with the public about the need for self-preparation. Individuals and families need to take steps to go it alone if weather conditions prevent them from leaving home or responders to reach them.

Preparing for a disaster has become a slightly more complicated exercise during COVID-19. Communities must account for social distancing and masks when setting up emergency shelters, families need to add extra face coverings to their preparedness kits, and staying with friends or family after being displaced may not be an option for some.

The Ready campaign ([ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov)) offers a number of resources for the public, and outreach materials for responders, municipal leaders, state agencies, or others. This year's themes are:

### Week 1 September 1-5: Make A Plan

Talk to your friends and family about how you will communicate before, during, and after a disaster. Make sure to update your plan based on the Centers for Disease Control recommendations due to the coronavirus.

### Week 2 September 6-12: Build A Kit

Gather supplies that will last for several days after a disaster for everyone living in your home. Don't forget to consider the unique needs each person or pet may have in case you have to evacuate quickly. Update your kits and supplies based on recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control.

### Week 3 September 13-19: Prepare for Disasters

Limit the impacts that disasters have on you and your family. Know the risk of disasters in your area and check your insurance coverage. Learn how to make your home stronger in the face of storms and other common hazards and act fast if you receive a local warning or alert.

### Week 4 September 20-26: Teach Youth About Preparedness

Talk to your kids about preparing for emergencies and what to do in case you are separated. Reassure them by providing information about how they can get involved.

For more on preparedness please visit:  
<https://vem.vermont.gov/preparedness>  
or  
[www.ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov)

**Free cloth face coverings are available to the public. Communities that have not done so can request a supply by contacting: [eric.forand@vermont.gov](mailto:eric.forand@vermont.gov).  
<https://vem.vermont.gov/maskdistribution>**