

8th Annual

PENNSYLVANIA

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND
HOMELAND SECURITY CONFERENCE

2025



**BUILDING RESILIENT
COMMUNITIES**
ADAPTING TO A CHANGING LANDSCAPE

September 28 – 30, 2025
Blair County Convention Center
Altoona, PA

Call for Presentations

KEYSTONE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

www.KEMAConference.com

Call for Speakers & Presentations

The Keystone Emergency Management Association (KEMA) invites you to share your expertise and contribute to the emergency management community by submitting a presentation proposal for the **8th Annual Pennsylvania Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security Conference**, #KEMACon2025 on September 28th to 30th in Altoona, Pennsylvania. With a theme of "Building Resilient Communities, Adapting to a Changing Landscape," the conference will provide a platform to showcase cutting-edge concepts, technology, processes, and evidence-based practices in emergency management. Join over 350 emergency management professionals at #KEMACon2025 and share your knowledge by submitting a proposal today.

The Theme of the Conference

Building Resilient Communities, Adapting to a Changing Landscape

Speaker Call

The Call for Speakers will be open on January 6, 2025 through April 21, 2025 at 5:00 PM Eastern Time. Please note that all applications must be submitted by the deadline and no exceptions will be made. If you are submitting multiple presentations, please fill out a separate application for each presentation. Breakout sessions are limited to a maximum of 90 minutes, including time for Q&A, so please structure your presentation accordingly.

With over 300 emergency management professionals expected to attend #KEMACon2025, this is an excellent opportunity to educate your peers and contribute to the field. Don't miss out on this chance to showcase your expertise and insights on emergency management practices and technology within the conference theme of "Building Resilient Communities, Adapting to a Changing Landscape." Submit your proposal before the deadline to be considered for the conference program.

Presentations longer than 90 minutes will not be considered.

Conference Focus

To ensure your presentation is relevant to the diverse audience at the **8th Annual Pennsylvania Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security Conference**, we encourage you to utilize the theme, "**Building Resilient Communities, Adapting to a Changing Landscape**" in developing your presentation. Your presentation should address the challenges faced by the emergency preparedness and homeland security community and offer solutions for overcoming these obstacles. In addition, please consider tailoring your presentation to appeal to a broad range of attendees, including but not limited to:

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- Government emergency managers
- Disaster planners
- Homeland security professionals
- Communications system specialists/9-1-1 Coordinators
- Crisis and risk managers
- Business continuity planners
- Health and human services providers
- Public safety chief officers/directors
- Educational institutions
- Healthcare disaster professionals
- Meteorologists
- Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

Conference Dates and Location

September 28th, 29th, and 30th, 2025 at the Blair County Convention Center in Altoona, PA.

As a token of appreciation for your participation in the [7th Annual Pennsylvania Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security Conference](#), up to two speakers per presentation will be granted a 50% discounted Conference registration. **Please note that presenters are responsible for covering all costs related to their registration, accommodations, travel, and meals. KEMA does not offer an honorarium, and all presentations must be provided on a voluntary basis.** We appreciate your willingness to contribute to the emergency management community through your expertise and experience.

Tips for Completing the Application

- Read all instructions carefully.
- Complete all fields – incomplete applications will be disqualified.
- Double check for typos before you submit – they will decrease your score.

Important Dates

- Submissions are due by April 21, 2025.
- KEMA will notify speakers of selections by May 5, 2025.
- Presenters must be registered before August 11, 2025.

Scoring Applications

Applications are scored based on: A complete and accurate application – **INCOMPLETE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE DISQUALIFIED AND REMOVED FROM REVIEW**

- Quality of submitted presentation
- Speaker experience and qualifications related to the topic
- Compelling presentation “story” that will engage the audience
- Adherence to the theme, “Building Resilient Communities, Adapting to a Changing Landscape”

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The results of the 2024 KEMA Conference survey indicated the following topics are most requested and thus, presentations related to these topics may receive preference:

- Case Studies
 - Election
 - Hurricanes Helene & Milton
- Multi-Agency Resource Centers / Disaster Recovery Centers
- Non-Profits in Emergency Preparedness
- Safe Schools
- Climate Change and Adaptation
- Mass Communication Notification
- Resilience
- Cybersecurity
- Emerging Technology
- Private Sector Integration and Partnerships
- Whole Community Diversity and Inclusion
- Volunteer Engagement & Recruitment
- Mass Care

Proposal Submission

Online Application: <https://bit.ly/KEMA2025CallForSpeakers>

The application requires submission of:

- Primary Contact (Name, Organization, Title, E-Mail, and Phone)
- Speaker (Name, Organization, Title, E-Mail, Phone, and Biography)
- Presentation (Title, Objectives, FEMA Mission Area, Description)

After Your Proposal is Selected

The selection process for presenters and alternates will be completed by **May 5, 2025**, and all accepted presenters must register for the conference before **August 11, 2025**. Failure to register by this date will result in the presenter being excluded from the program, and an alternate presenter will be selected.

Upon notification of their acceptance, presenters are advised to make travel and accommodation arrangements. Presenters are responsible for all associated costs, including accommodation, travel, and meals. KEMA does not provide an honorarium, and all presentations are to be provided "pro bono."

Selected presenters (**up to 2 per topic**) will receive a 50% discounted Conference registration.

Presentations must not be used for direct promotion of a speaker's products or services, as they are intended to be non-commercial in nature. The Conference will provide a PC-compatible computer, projector, and screen. If presenters require any additional equipment, such as audio speakers or easel boards, they must be provided by the presenter(s).

Contact

All inquiries regarding speakers and presentations shall be directed to:

- Robert Gerlach, E-mail: Conference@KEMAConference.com

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About KEMA

At the Keystone Emergency Management Association (KEMA), our mission is to promote and enhance the capabilities and expertise of emergency management professionals and volunteers across Pennsylvania. We believe that by working together and sharing information, we can better protect lives and property from both natural and man-made disasters. Our focus is on education, collaboration, and building partnerships with emergency response organizations to achieve this goal.

Our vision is to be a leading and results-driven organization of emergency management professionals, recognized for our commitment to excellence in preparing for and responding to emergencies. We strive to be a trusted resource for the Pennsylvania emergency management community, providing training, guidance, and support that helps to build a more resilient Commonwealth.

www.KEMA-PA.org