

# PENNSYLVANIA

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND HOMELAND SECURITY

## *Conference* 2025



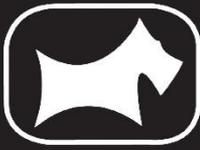
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**SEPTEMBER 28 - 30, 2025**

BLAIR COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER

Presented by the  
**KEYSTONE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION**



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***This conference would not be possible without the significant investment of grant funds and support provided by PEMA.***

# Schedule of Activities

## Sunday, September 28

Times	Event	Location
11:00 am – 4:00 pm	Registration Open	Allegheny Mountains Lobby
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Breakout Sessions	Rooms 202 to 208
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	BREAK – <i>Coffee &amp; Snacks provided</i>	Grand Lobby
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Breakout Sessions	Rooms 202 to 208
4:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Vendor Showcase <i>Hors d'oeuvres &amp; Cash Bar</i>	Grand Lobby
5:00 pm – 7:30 pm	PA VOAD Meeting and Dinner	Ballroom 4

## Monday, September 29

Times	Event	Location
7:00 am – 8:00 am	Registration Open	Allegheny Mountains Lobby
7:00 am – 8:00 am	Continental Breakfast <i>Selection of juices, bagels, pastries, butter, cream cheese, preserves and hot beverages</i>	Ballroom 3
8:00 am – 5:30 pm	Vendor Area Open	Grand Lobby
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Opening Ceremony & Welcome	Ballroom 3
9:00 am – 10:00 am	Keynote Speaker	Ballroom 3
10:00 am – 10:30 am	BREAK – <i>Coffee provided</i>	Grand Lobby
10:30 am – 12:00 pm	Breakout Sessions	Rooms 202 to 208 and Ballrooms 1 & 2
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch ( <i>provided by Tetra Tech</i> ) <i>Chef's Choice Lunch Buffet: Tossed garden salad with assorted dressings, rolls, butter, chef-selected salad du jour, soup du jour, two entrées, fresh vegetables, and potato or rice selection</i>	Ballroom 3
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Breakout Sessions	Rooms 202 to 208 and Ballrooms 1 & 2
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	BREAK – <i>Coffee &amp; Snacks provided</i>	Grand Lobby
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Breakout Sessions	Rooms 202 to 208 and Ballrooms 1 & 2
5:00 pm – 5:30 pm	KEMA Annual Membership Meeting	Ballroom 3
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	KEMA Annual Awards Dinner	Ballroom 3
8:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Social Happy Hour <i>Bring your Conference Badge</i>	Country Inn & Suites by Radisson

**Your 2025 Conference attendance supports  
KEMA's ongoing initiatives. THANK YOU!**

# Schedule of Activities (Continued)

## Tuesday, September 30

Times	Event	Location
7:30 am – 8:30 am	Coffee, a variety of teas, and assorted juices	Grand Lobby
8:30 am – 10:00 am	Breakout Sessions	Rooms 202 to 208
10:00 am – 10:30 am	BREAK – <i>Coffee provided</i>	Grand Lobby
10:30 am – 12:00 pm	Breakout Sessions	Rooms 202 to 208

## KEMA Mission and Vision

The **MISSION** of the Keystone Emergency Management Association (KEMA) is to promote, support, and advocate comprehensive emergency management at all levels of Pennsylvania’s public and private sectors.

The **VISION** of the Keystone Emergency Management Association is that KEMA shall be recognized by the Pennsylvania emergency management community as a results-driven organization of emergency management professionals dedicated to protecting lives and property from both human-caused and natural disasters.

## Disclaimers

Please note that conference courses and faculty are subject to change without notice. While we strive to ensure that the program remains as advertised, unforeseen circumstances may necessitate alterations to the schedule. In the event that a course is changed, the event organizers will make every effort to secure a suitable replacement with similar subject matter.

Photographs and videos will be taken during the **Pennsylvania Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security Conference**. By registering for the conference and participating in the sponsored classes, events, and activities, as well as visiting the convention center and/or exhibitors, you acknowledge and consent to the use of your image, audio, or video recording by the Keystone Emergency Management Association for marketing purposes. Please note that you will not be entitled to any compensation for the use of your image, audio, or video recording.

We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to your participation in the conference.

# KEMA Executive Board

---

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President

## WILLIAM HOWARD

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Director

## Conference Committee

---

### Chairperson

- **Robert Gerlach**, *Duquesne University, Department of Public Safety*

### Planning Committee Members

- **Dave Boucher**, *PEMA*
- **Greg Crossley**, *PA Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster*
- **Molly Dougherty**, *PEMA*
- **Neal Doyle**, *Paradise Township*
- **Jeffrey Farber**, *Blair County EMA*
- **Emma Hosman**, *PA Department of Health, BEPR*
- **Billie Kauffman**, *PA Office of Homeland Security*
- **Rick Lippert**, *Public Health Management Corporation*
- **Claudia Madrigal**, *PA Department of Health, BEPR*
- **Amy Marree**, *Butler County Emergency Services*
- **John Nicklin**, *Mercer County EMA*
- **Chris Selfridge**, *PEMA Western Area Office*
- **Roy Shipley**, *Fayette County EMA*
- **Aaron Skrbin**, *Allegheny Intermediate Unit*
- **Rob Then**, *PEMA Central Area Office*
- **Mike Wasko**, *PEMA Eastern Area Office*
- **Lawrence West**, *PEMA*
- **Shawn Wroblewski**, *West Erie County EMA*

**Blair County Convention Center Free Wi-Fi**

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# Opening Ceremonies

Monday, September 29

8:00 am	Opening Remarks & President's Welcome	<b>Robert Gerlach</b> <i>Director, Emergency Mgmt. &amp; Threat Assessment Duquesne University</i>
8:20 am	PEMA Welcome	<b>D. Randy Padfield</b> <i>Director Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency</i>
8:40 am	PA Office of Homeland Security Welcome	<b>Kristin Daniels</b> <i>Deputy Director Governor's Office of Homeland Security</i>
9:00 am	Keynote Speaker	<b>Patrick Van Horn</b> <i>Co-Founder, The CP Journal</i>

## Conference Partners

We sincerely thank our conference partners for their invaluable support and contribution towards making this event a resounding success.

Planning Partner



Supporting Partners



# Keynote Speaker

## Patrick Van Horne, Co-Founder, The CP Journal

Patrick Van Horne is a co-founder of The CP Journal, where he supports clients, including emergency management offices, critical infrastructure owners and operators, special event venues, and public safety agencies preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters.



Beginning his career as an infantry officer in the Marine Corps after the attacks on September 11th, Patrick has supported public and private sector organizations in disaster preparedness initiatives as an entrepreneur, consultant, local emergency manager, and volunteer for over 20 years.

Additionally, Patrick is the co-author of the book “Left of Bang: How the Marine Corps’ Combat Hunter Program Can Save Your Life,” which describes the innovative program designed to teach deploying Marines how to proactively recognize threats, assess human behavior, and gain the upper hand against our nation’s adversaries.

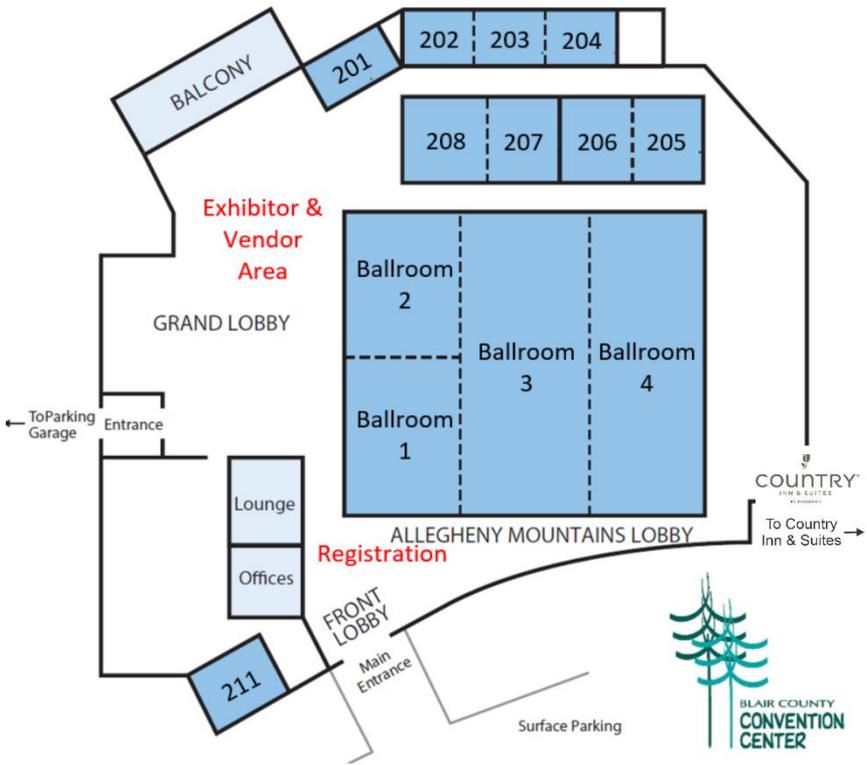
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# Blair County Convention Center Map



## Notices

Please ensure that any noise-producing items, such as phones, radios, pagers, or other electronic devices, are either turned off or set to silent mode while classes are in session.

To protect the privacy of our faculty members and their intellectual property, please note that any video or audio recording of classes or faculty is strictly prohibited without the explicit consent of the faculty member and the conference management.

Only Service Animals, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Pennsylvania 2018 Act 118 (Assistance and Service Animal Integrity Act), are permitted inside the Convention Center during the event. *Please note that 'therapy,' 'assistance,' or 'emotional support' animals do not meet the definition of Service Animals and are not permitted.*

# Conference Sponsors

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KEMA would like to thank the following organizations who, without their sponsorship, this Conference would not be a success. THANK YOU!

## Gold Level Sponsor



## Bronze Level Sponsors



## Monday Lunch



## Conference Lanyards



# PA VOAD Meeting and Dinner

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## Sunday, September 28 – 5:00 PM – Ballroom 4

The PA VOAD Meeting and Dinner is open to all PA VOAD organization representatives and all other emergency management personnel affiliated with a local or regional VOAD element.

The dinner menu will be Chef selected beef, poultry, and seafood entrées, a potato, rice, or pasta selection, a vegetable medley, Chef selected salad du jour, mixed greens with tomatoes, red onions, cucumbers, cheddar cheese, olives, croutons, and assorted dressings, and a Chef selected dessert.

<b>Guest Speaker &amp; Facilitated Discussion</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>
<b>Dinner</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>
<b>Meeting &amp; Shirley Norman Award</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
<b>Adjourn</b>	<b>7:30 PM</b>

## Dr. Sepi Yalda

Dr. Sepi Yalda is a Professor of Meteorology, the Director of the Millersville University's Center for Disaster Research and Education (CDRE) and serves as the Coordinator for the Master of Science in Emergency Management (MSEM) program. Additionally, she serves as the program director for the Bachelor of Science in Emergency Management (BSEM). In her role as CDRE Director, she is involved in local, regional, national, and international efforts related to disaster education, mitigation, planning, and response. She has served as an invited member on several committees including the FEMA Emergency Management Institute's (EMI) Emergency Management Higher Education Group, and International Association of Emergency Managers Climate Change, Water, and Weather Committee, and Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency among others. Dr. Yalda has served and/or currently serves on several boards and committees for other professional organizations including the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research and the American Meteorological Society.



Her current research interests are in the areas of disaster preparedness, planning, and community education. Dr. Yalda has been the recipient of several research grants with a focus on information technology, science education, and the development of new tools and technologies to improve science education at all levels. She has worked on funded projects and contracts including collaborative efforts with the American Red Cross focused on the North American Humanitarian Response Initiative (NAHRI), National Transit Agency and several county and state initiatives. Additionally, she has served and currently serves on several committees with a focus on training and education including the National Environmental Education & Training Foundations Eyes on the Environment Advisory Committee and the Cooperative Program for Operational Meteorology, Education and Training (COMET) among others. Dr. Yalda is an official consultant for the United Nations, and in this capacity has delivered workshops for projects such as the UNODC Education for Justice Initiative in Kenya and Singapore. As an extension of this project, she is currently working with Wilfrid-Laurier University on the development of courses based on the UNODC Education for Justice modules for an undergraduate certificate in Global Crime and Justice. She earned her Ph.D. in Meteorology from Saint Louis University in 1997. She is a member of the International Association of Emergency Managers, American Geophysical Union, and a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society.





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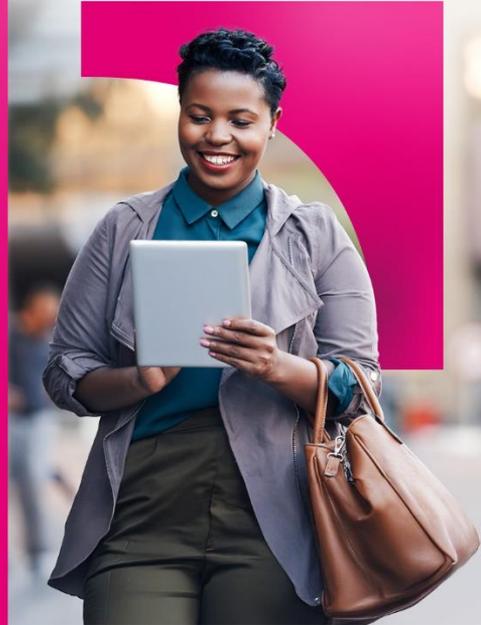
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# KEMA Annual Membership Meeting Agenda

**Monday, September 29 – 6:00 PM – Ballroom 3**

Call to Order  
Roll Call of Members Present  
Reading of Previous Meetings Minutes  
Reports of Officers and Committees  
Stakeholder Reports  
Unfinished Business  
New Business  
Elections  
Installation of Officers and Directors  
Good of the Association  
Adjournment

## KEMA Annual Awards Dinner

**Monday, September 29 – 7:00 PM – Ballroom 3**

**No charge to KEMA Members.**

**Non-KEMA Members must pay \$50 to attend.**

The menu for the dinner will be the “Little Italy” which will feature a Salad, Penne & Cheese Tortellini (Marinara and Alfredo sauces), Shrimp scampi, Chicken Milanese with garlic and rosemary roasted potatoes, Alvera’s Meatballs in red sauce, and a Chef-selected dessert.



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# Sunday Breakout Session Schedule

## September 28, 2025

Times	Title	Room
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Case Study- House Explosion in a Suburban Neighborhood	202 & 203
	Make The LEMC Work for You	204
	Non - Profit Road to Recovery, When the Roadmap Has Changed	205
	Organizational Structures and Disaster Response Networks: Where is Your EMA Located in Government?	206
	Strengthening Local Networks: VOADs and Building Resilient Communities in Evolving Landscapes	207
	A Handbook for Humanity: Taking Care of The Caregiver	208
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	BREAK	Grand Lobby
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Engaging Local Level Emergency Services and Municipal Depts. in Emergency Management Planning	202 & 203
	The Need for Engaging Volunteer Training Initiatives Surrounding Developmental Disabilities: The Medical Reserve Corps	204
	Regionalization of Local Emergency Management Programs	205
	PEMA Western Area Meeting	206
	PEMA Eastern Area Meeting	207
	PEMA Central Area Meeting	208

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# Monday Breakout Session Schedule

## September 29, 2025

Times	Title	Room
10:30 am – 12:00 pm	Case Study: Virtual/Hybrid EOC Extended Operations	202 & 203
	Multiagency Response to Complex Incidents	204
	Developing a Substantial Damage Response Plan (SDRP)	205
	Effective Interagency Coordination and Unified Command in the Search for a Missing Kayaker: Lessons Learned	206
	The Missing Piece-Using 211 to Support Disaster Recovery	207
	Wellness in the Workplace: Empowering Staff Self-Care	208
	From Landlines to Social Media: Building Inclusive Mass Notification Networks	Ballroom 1
	Reimagining EM in Pennsylvania	Ballroom 2
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	LUNCH	Ballroom 3
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Project Management in Emergency Management: The Art and Science of Getting Things Done	202 & 203
	Closing the Gaps: Expanding Radar Coverage to Empower Emergency Management	204
	Behavioral Threat Assessment Management	205
	Planning in Picture: How Lessons Learned in the Military Special Operations Community Overseas Can Improve Incident Response at Home	206
	Schools as Lifelines: Harnessing Educational Institutions for Disaster Response and Community Resilience	207
	Safety and Security Planning for Pennsylvania's Mass Gatherings	208
	UAS Integration, Utilization, and Threat Management	Ballroom 1
	"Keeping the Lights On" an Inside Look at Utility Emergency Management	Ballroom 2
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	BREAK	Grand Lobby
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	An Analysis of the Public Information Response During and After the Active Shooter Incident at UPMC Memorial Hospital	202 & 203
	Emergency Management and Academic Annual Convergence Session	204
	Resilience in Real Life: Lessons in Adaptability and Gratitude from a Near-Death Experience	205
	KEMA Membership Meeting - Western Area	206
	KEMA Membership Meeting - Eastern Area	207
	KEMA Membership Meeting - Central Area	208
	Beyond the Binder: Leveraging AI to Strengthen EOPs	Ballroom 1
Why Homeland Defense Requires the Whole of Nation	Ballroom 2	

# Tuesday Breakout Session Schedule

## September 30, 2025

Times	Title	Room
8:30 am – 10:00 am	<b>Eyes in the Sky: UAS and Emergency Management</b>	202 & 203
	Overnight Sheltering for the Disabilities, Access and Functional Needs (DAFN) Community	204
	<b>Don't Get Got: Keeping Your Loved Ones Safe from Cyber Scams</b>	205
	How to Use Storytelling to Create Meaningful Connection and Collaboration	206
	<b>Risk Revealed: Using Commodity Flow Studies to Inform Hazmat Training and Bolster Community Resilience</b>	207
	Strengthening Ties: Exploring the Impacts of Disasters on Low-Income Communities	208
10:00 am – 10:30 am	BREAK	Grand Lobby
10:30 am – 12:00 pm	<b>Dealing with THE BIG ONE</b>	202 & 203
	Pathways to Preparedness	204
	<b>Going Beyond the Basic ICS-206 Form. Methodology for Risk Based Medical and Trauma Emergency Planning</b>	205
	The P.A.C.E. of Risk Society	206
	<b>EM Technology at the PTC</b>	207
	Community-Based Compound Hazard Awareness: Environmental Justice and Mental Health in Disasters	208

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# Conference Faculty

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We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated presenters who generously shared their subject matter expertise for the educational benefit of the emergency preparedness community in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Without their selfless volunteering, this conference would not have been possible. Their contributions have enriched our knowledge and strengthened our collective preparedness.

A listing of the conference faculty and their biographies are available on the KEMA Conference mobile app and at: <https://eventee.com/e/27098>

## Monday Evening Social Happy Hour

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Join us in the Country Inn & Suites by Radisson’s Lobby/Bar on Monday evening from 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM. You’ll have the opportunity to unwind in a relaxed setting and engage in valuable networking with fellow conference attendees.

This event has been generously sponsored by:



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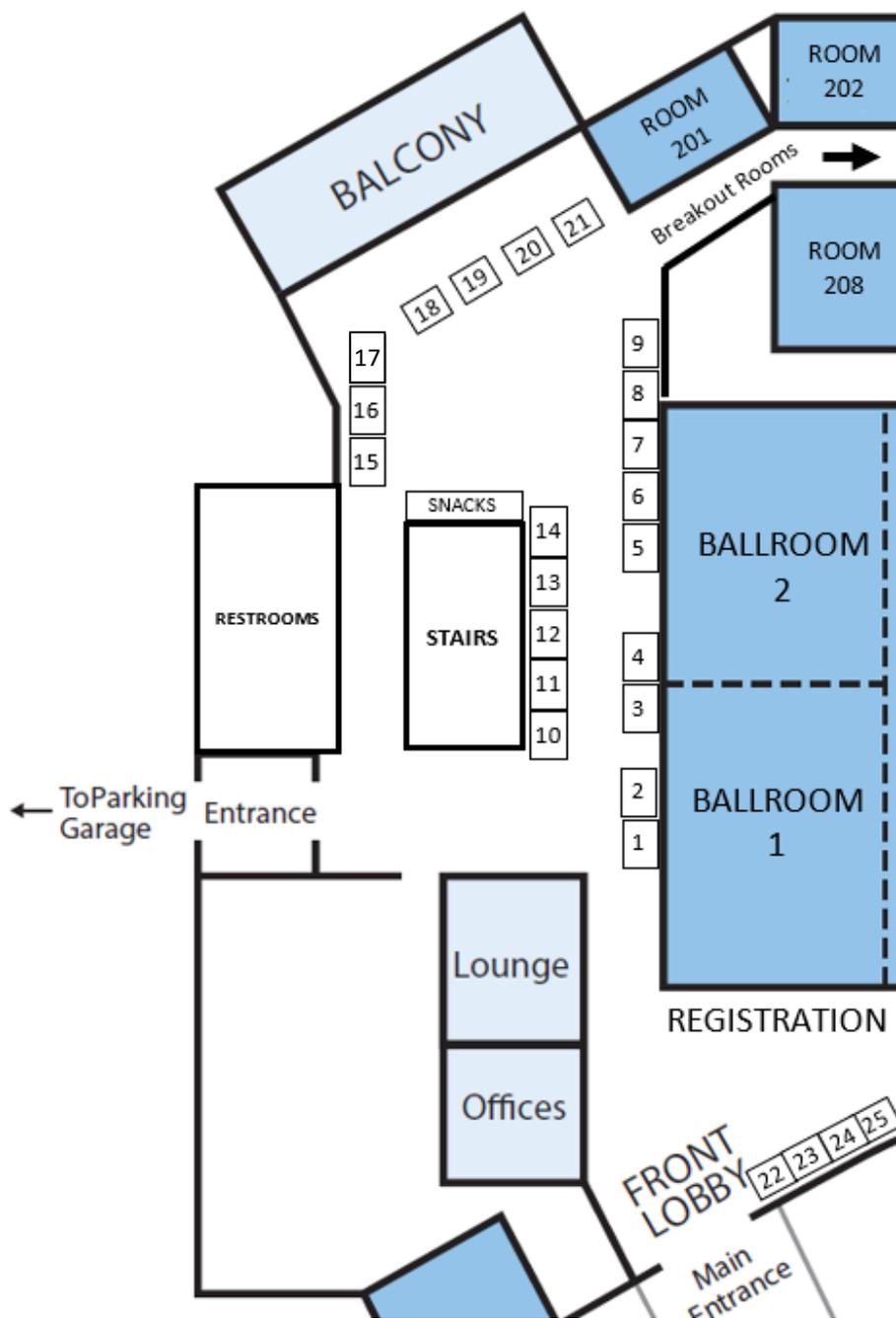
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# Conference Exhibitors

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Booth Number	Exhibitor
1	Mobile Concepts Specialty Vehicles
2	Meridian Rapid Defense Group
3	Tetra Tech, Inc.
4	FotoKite
5	T-Mobile for Government
6	Continuity Operations Group, LLC
7	Everbridge
8	Motorola Solutions
9	Advanced Security Technologies LLC
10	MCM Consulting Group, Inc.
11	Security 101
12	Perimeter
13	FirstNet
14	Cognito Innovations
15	CriticalArc
16	Critical Response Group
17	Centre Communications
18	Vi-Haus
19	Iron Bow Technologies
20 & 21	Visual Sound
22	PA VOAD
23	PEMA
24	PA Office of Homeland Security
25	PA Department of Health



# STRATEGIES OF TODAY FOR THE EMERGENCIES OF TOMORROW.



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# Get ready for #KEMACON2026

Save the date for the **9th Annual Pennsylvania Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security Conference** at the Blair County Convention Center in Altoona, PA on **September 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> of 2026**.



## STRENGTHENING CONNECTIONS

ADDRESSING THE THREATS OF TOMORROW

### Important dates for #KEMACON2026:

Conference Sponsors – Early bird registration starts (Save 15%)	12/29/2025
Call for Presentations opens	1/5/2026
Conference Sponsors – Regular registration starts	3/2/2026
Call for Presentations ends	4/20/2026
Presentations chosen and speakers notified	5/4/2026
Attendee early bird registration starts	5/18/2026
Attendee regular registration starts	6/8/2026
Attendee late registration starts	8/10/2026
Conference Sponsorship registrations ends and payments due	8/14/2026
Conference Book listing/ad deadline	8/21/2026
Attendee registration ends	8/28/2026
Conference Dates	9/27-29/2026

*Subject to scheduling changes*

### 2027 Conference:

## 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & KEMA's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



**LOOKING BACK  
MOVING FORWARD**  
PREPARING FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

**PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS  
AND HOMELAND SECURITY CONFERENCE 2027**



## September 25 to 28, 2027

Reflecting on the last 50 years of emergency management in Pennsylvania and exploring innovative solutions for the future. Focusing on preparing for the future of emergency management and the next generation of emergency responders.

Thank you for attending #KEMACON2025. Without **YOU**, this event would not have been successful! **See you next year!**