10TH ANNUAL

PENNSYLVANIA

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND HOMELAND SECURITY

Conference

LOOKING BACK
MOVING FORWARD
ADDRESSING THE THREATS OF TOMORROW

September 25 – 28, 2027

Blair County Convention Center
Altoona, PA

Justification Toolkit

KEYSTONE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION
www.KEMAConference.com

#KEMACon2026

ABOUT KEMA

The Keystone Emergency Management Association (KEMA) is a non-profit organization that was established to provide a platform for individuals and organizations involved in emergency management, emergency preparedness, and homeland security to exchange ideas, share best practices, and collaborate in order to enhance the overall emergency preparedness in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Our members include emergency preparedness and management professionals, government agencies, private sector organizations, associations, and other stakeholders involved in emergency preparedness, management, and homeland security.

2026 BY THE NUMBERS

- 292 Attendees
- 102 Unique Institutions
- 23 Exhibitors
- 66 Speakers
- 57 Sessions

BY LOCATION

PENNSYLVANIA (TOP 15)

Harrisburg	29
Pittsburgh	15
Indiana	7
Bellefonte	6
Greensburg	6
Carlisle	5
Uniontown	5
Washington	5
Butler	4
Erie	4
Somerset	4
State College	4
Altoona	3
Philadelphia	3
Reading	3

STATES

Pennsylvania	234
New Jersey	7
Maryland	5
Virginia	5
Georgia	4
Massachusetts	3
New York	3
Florida	2
Texas	2
Connecticut	1
Kansas	1
Kentucky	1
Missouri	1
North Carolina	1
Oregon	1

Why Attend #KEMACon2027

The Keystone Emergency Management Association (KEMA) provides a statewide forum for the exchange of ideas, techniques, and best practices to advance the expertise of emergency management professionals and volunteers across Pennsylvania. Our mission is to promote, support, and advocate for comprehensive emergency management at all levels of the Commonwealth's public and private sectors, safeguarding lives and property from the impact of natural and man-made disasters.

Our members benefit from a robust network of subject matter experts and government officials who share vital information, solve complex challenges, and foster the partnerships necessary to build a more resilient Pennsylvania.

Annually, KEMA members gather for the Pennsylvania Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security Conference, the premier event for the state's emergency management and public safety community. Join us for #KEMACon2027, September 25–28, 2026, at the Blair County Convention Center in Altoona, PA! The conference features diverse educational presentations on the latest evidence-based practices, engaging keynote programs, an extensive vendor showcase highlighting cutting-edge technology and services, and unparalleled opportunities for networking with your peers from across the Commonwealth.

To assist you with justifying your attendance to supervisors, please use the following toolkit which can be personalized to meet your needs.

#KEMACon2026 Attendee Feedback

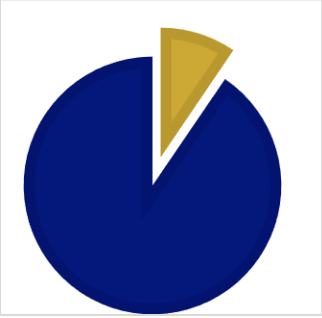
(Scale of 1 to 5: 1 = Very Dissatisfied, 5 = Very Satisfied)

How satisfied were you with your experience at *#KEMACon2026*? **4.47**

How likely are you to recommend the *#KEMACon2027*? **4.50**

How likely are you to attend *#KEMACon2027*? **4.35**

How would you rate the value for the cost?



The cost was an excellent value or fair **94%**

The cost was too high for the value received **6%**

Expenses

EXPENSES	COST-SAVING TIPS	COST
Conference Registration	• Register Early! Save $25 by registering before June 8, 2026.	$
Conference Lodging	• The Country Inn & Suites is the primary host hotel. • Additional lodging will be available at the Holiday Inn Express, across the street. • Book before August 27, 2026, to receive the group rate.	$
Meals	• KEMA provides some food and beverage, including the Vendor Showcase, coffee, light snacks, and Monday lunch. • Additional food & beverage will be available for purchase at the hotels. • Both host hotels provide complimentary breakfast.	$
Travel	• Book your transportation at least six weeks out to ensure the best rates.	$
Transportation During #KEMA2027	• All official events will occur at the Blair County Convention Center and the County Inn & Suites. • Rideshare services are available for personal excursions.	$

Total Cost to attend the PA Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security Conference: $

KEMA
KEYSTONE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

www.KEMA-PA.org

Goals

EXAMPLE GOALS	RESOURCE
Strategic Networking & Collaboration	Cultivated a strategic network of industry peers and mission-critical vendors to enhance organizational resource sharing and mutual aid capabilities.
Resource & Technology Exploration	Conducted comprehensive market research and hands-on vetting of emerging technologies to ensure high-ROI procurement for future department upgrades.

Justification

Provide this completed form to your direct manager/supervisor paired with the request for approval letter.

- **What is the total cost for you to attend the 2027 PA Emergency Preparedness & Homeland Security Conference?** (Registration, hotel, travel, etc.)

- **Who's going to be there?** (Think of the relationships you'll gain-20+ exhibitors, hundreds of emergency preparedness and homeland security professionals from across the Commonwealth and beyond, leading experts in the field, insight from plenary speakers who commanded the response to recent, high-profile incidents)

- **How will you value the experience of this event?** (Where else can you be surrounded by the top emergency preparedness and homeland security professionals from across the world?)

- **What can you get here that you can't find anywhere else**? (Dynamic keynote speaker, hands-on workshops, networking opportunities, 20+ exhibitors, etc.)

Post Conference Review

We want you to get the greatest return on investment from attending *#KEMACon2027*. Gather your thoughts and share them with your colleagues and supervisor back home at your department.

- **What relationships did I create**? (Exhibitors, colleagues near and far, etc.)

- **What was my one key takeaway from the conference?**

- **How do I value my experience?**

- **What solutions did I find and how will I implement them?**

- **Who do I need to follow up with?** (Exhibitors, colleagues, presenters, etc.)

- **How do I plan to keep the connections I made at *#KEMACon2027*?** (Other conferences, social media, etc.)

Sample Request

[*Insert Date*]

Dear [*Insert Supervisor's Name*],

I am writing to request approval to attend the **2027 Pennsylvania Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security Conference**, hosted by the **Keystone Emergency Management Association (KEMA)**. This event is scheduled to take place from September 25–28, 2027, at the Blair County Convention Center in Altoona, PA.

As the premier gathering for emergency management professionals in the Commonwealth, the KEMA conference offers an unparalleled opportunity to engage with the specific challenges facing Pennsylvania's public safety infrastructure. The program features a comprehensive curriculum focused on all-hazards planning, response coordination, and recovery strategies.

By attending this conference, I will have access to:

- **State-Specific Training:** Specialized sessions on Pennsylvania-specific emergency management protocols, legislative updates, and PEMA (Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency) compliance.
- **Critical Skill Development:** Workshops covering high-priority topics such as hazard mitigation, cybersecurity for local government, mass care coordination, and advanced crisis communications.
- **Strategic Networking:** The chance to build relationships with peers from across the state, as well as representatives from federal, state, and local agencies, ensuring we have a robust network to rely on during mutual aid events.
- **Innovation Showcase:** Access to the exhibit hall featuring the latest in emergency notification systems, specialized response equipment, and disaster recovery technology.

I am particularly interested in attending sessions that align with our current goals regarding [*Insert a specific project, e.g., updating our Municipal Emergency Operations Plan or improving our flood mitigation strategy*]. I look forward to returning with actionable insights and best practices that will directly enhance our community's resilience and the efficiency of our department.

Attached are the estimated costs for registration, travel, and lodging, as well as a brief summary of how specific sessions align with our departmental priorities for the coming year.

Thank you for your time and for supporting my professional development and our organization's commitment to public safety.

Sincerely,

[*Insert Signature*]
[*Insert Your Name/Title*]