

VEMS 2025 Tentative* Program Schedule

Day	Date	Time	Event	Speakers
Sun	3/16/2025	0800-1700	Pre-Conference Training (offsite): Zero to COML & G108- Community Mass Care Mgt	Rodney Newton // Dennis Dura, Michelle Pope
Mon	3/17/2025	0800-1700	Pre-Conference Training (offsite): Zero to COML & G108- Community Mass Care Mgt	Rodney Newton // Dennis Dura, Michelle Pope
	3/17/2025	0900-1700	Pre-Conference Training (offsite): Outside the Yellow Tape: Family Assistance Planning and Operations	Carrie Gonzalez, Dr. Kelly Higgins Myers
	3/17/2025	0900-1530	Institutions of Higher Education Caucus Annual Meeting	
	3/17/2025	1500-1700	Volunteer Opportunity at Rescue Mission of Roanoke	
	3/17/2025	1500-1800	Vendor Setup	
	3/17/2025	1830-2000	Onsite Check-In	
	3/17/2025	1830-2030	Vendor Hall Grand Opening & Reception	
Tues	3/18/2025	0700-1600	Onsite Check-In	
	3/18/2025	0700-1330	Vendor Hall Open	
	3/18/2025	0700-0800	Breakfast in the Vendor Hall	
	3/18/2025	0800-0830	Welcome, CG, Invocation, & Opening Ceremony	Lucy Carter-Smith (MC)
	3/18/2025	0830-0945	GS1: Growing Emergency Management Leaders for the Future (Keynote)	Erin Sutton
	3/18/2025	0945-1015	Beverage Break	
	3/18/2025	1015-1100	A1: From Desk to Deployment: How Field Experience Amplifies Organizational Preparedness and Resilience	Hannah Winant
	3/18/2025	1015-1100	A2: 211 Virginia: Your Partner in Emergencies and Disasters	Amanda Holcomb, Margaret Telsch-Williams
	3/18/2025	1015-1100	A3: Developing Strategic Partnerships for Crisis Response Preparedness	Dawn Bush
	3/18/2025	1015-1100	A4: VCU Wilder School	Brie Haupt
	3/18/2025	1100-1115	Stretch Break	
	3/18/2025	1115-1215	B1: Leveraging National Weather Service Expertise: A Case Study of Service Before, During, and After Hurricane Helene	Phil Hysell (virtual)
	3/18/2025	1115-1215	B2: Small Jurisdictions Band Together to Resolve Multiple Communication Infrastructure Failures	Tracie Giles
	3/18/2025	1115-1215	B3: Higher Ed - Count on Planning and Preparedness	Brandy Ellard
	3/18/2025	1115-1215	B4: The Mitigation Plan to Project Pipeline: Next Steps in Risk Reduction	Michael Morgan-Dodson, Casey Garnett
	3/18/2025	1215-1330	Lunch Buffet in the Vendor Hall	
	3/18/2025	1330-1430	C1: Beyond Luck: Strategies for Preparing, Responding To, and Recovering From a Drinking Water Emergency	Jessica Coughlin
	3/18/2025	1330-1430	C2: Motivational Leadership	Rich Troshak
	3/18/2025	1330-1430	C3: Proactive Preparedness in Action: The Operation Ready FLG Full-Scale Exercise	Ashleigh Makuch, Wes Dison, Aaron Walker
	3/18/2025	1330-1430	C4: The Human Impact of Hurricane Helene: Sheltering, Recovery, and Resilience	Justin Haga, Jonathan Simmons, Tyler Hall
	3/18/2025	1430-1445	Stretch Break	
	3/18/2025	1445-1545	D1: Libraries: More Than Books: A Tool for Emergency Managers	Amanda Jackson
	3/18/2025	1445-1545	D2: Bringing National Data to the Local Level: The Real Threat of Election Day Violence	Ben Webster
	3/18/2025	1445-1545	D3: Building a Citywide Coordination Team	Bill Lawson, Tara Thomas, Matthew Majid
	3/18/2025	1445-1545	D4: Helene Panel Discussion #2	Mike Guzo, Michael Whitaker
	3/18/2025	1545-1610	Legislative Committee Quick Meet & Greet (if needed)	
	3/18/2025	1545-1615	Refreshment Break	
	3/18/2025	1615-1715	E1: When Worlds Collide: 9-1-1 and Emergency Management	Rich Troshak
	3/18/2025	1615-1715	E2: Don't Press Your Luck - Recovering From Burnout	Heather Hilliard
	3/18/2025	1615-1715	E3: Legislative Workshop	Bill Lawson
	3/18/2025	1615-1715	E4: Is the Clock Ticking Down on Your Luck? Disaster Preparedness and Protecting/Preparing Your People and Your Data for the Unexpected	Kathryn Scourby
	3/18/2025	1715-1900	Enjoy dinner on your own	
	3/18/2025	1900-2100	Networking Event (offsite)	

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Day	Date	Time	Event	Speakers
Wed	3/19/2025	0700-1530	Onsite Check-In	
	3/19/2025	0700-0800	Breakfast	
	3/19/2025	0715-1315	Silent Auction Open	
	3/19/2025	0800-0900	GS-2: Hurricane Helene: Response and Recovery in Southwest Virginia	Andy John, Steven Pyle, Curtis Crawford, Tyler Hall, Justin Haga, Jonathan Simmons, Billy Chrimes
	3/19/2025	0900-0930	Beverage Break	
	3/19/2025	0930-1030	F1: Small Jurisdictions Band Together to Resolve Multiple Communication Infrastructure Failures	Tracie Giles
	3/19/2025	0930-1030	F2: Trust in Strategy, Not Luck: Enhancing Alert and Warning Coordination	Ryan Burkholder, Eric Seymour (virtual)
	3/19/2025	0930-1030	F3: The Blue Book: Collaborative Planning for Cyber Catastrophes	Thomas Berry, Emma Williams, Joel Silverman
	3/19/2025	0930-1030	F4: An Economic Review of Virginia's Appalachian Cities and Counties on Financial Preparedness for the Next Natural Disaster Event	Chloe Samuel
	3/19/2025	1030-1045	Stretch Break	
	3/19/2025	1045-1145	G1: Legislative Panel	Bill Lawson, Tara Thomas, Matthew Majid
	3/19/2025	1045-1145	G2: Looking Beyond the Weather Forecast: How new NWS products and techniques can provide more information to decision makers	Eric Seymour (virtual), Chris Strong (virtual), Tony Edwards (virtual)
	3/19/2025	1045-1145	G3: Better to be Prepared than Lucky: Lessons Learned from Implementing a Regional Exercise Series	Taylor Jones, Alex Weston
	3/19/2025	1045-1145	G4: Leveraging LCAR and Non-Traditional Data Sets in EM Decision Making (TENTATIVE)	Suzen Collins
	3/19/2025	1145-1315	General Membership Meeting Luncheon	
	3/19/2025	1315-1415	H1: Strengthening Emergency Sheltering Through Strategic Partnerships: Addressing Access and Functional Needs	Courtney Arroyo
	3/19/2025	1315-1415	H2: Beyond Luck: Strategies for Preparing, Responding To, and Recovering From a Drinking Water Emergency	Jessica Coughlin
	3/19/2025	1315-1415	H3: Operation Unified Shield: A Joint Agency Active Shooter/Mass Casualty Incident FTX from a Rural Private Industry Perspective	Addis Ainsley
	3/19/2025	1315-1415	H4: Leveraging Local and Regional Resources to Perform Hydrolic Surveys During and After Weather Events	Jeremy Geiger (virtual), Steven Pyle
	3/19/2025	1415-1430	Stretch Break	
	3/19/2025	1430-1530	I1: We Are Never Ever Getting Hacked Together	Christopher Cruz
	3/19/2025	1430-1530	I2: PWC's Mass Care Framework: A Paradigm Shift in Meeting the Needs of Survivors	Katie Kitzmiller
	3/19/2025	1430-1530	I3: Leveraging LCAR and Non-Traditional Data Sets in EM Decision Making (TENTATIVE)	Suzen Collins
	3/19/2025	1430-1530	I4: Enhancing Regional Readiness: Leveraging Computer-Based Simulations for Realistic Local and Regional Training	Jason Bewley
	3/19/2025	1530-1600	Silent Auction Bids Close	
	3/19/2025	1530-1600	Refreshment Break	
	3/19/2025	1600-1700	J1: Overview of Securing the Cities Program	Ryan Williams
	3/19/2025	1600-1700	J2: Role Reversal: Local EMs Supporting the Commonwealth	Jack McGovern
	3/19/2025	1600-1700	J3: Breaking the Mold: Empowering Bold Leadership in Risk-Averse Public Sector Environments	Alex Tran
	3/19/2025	1600-1700	J4: Cyber Liability Coverage, Insurance Concerns & Best Practices	Mike Rezac
	3/19/2025	1700-1715	Silent Auction Payments & Basket Pickup	
	3/19/2025	1750-1800	VEMS25 Committee Photo	
	3/19/2025	1800-1830	VEMA Group Photo & Reception	
	3/19/2025	1830-2130	Award/Scholarship Presentations, Dinner & Game Night (on-site)	

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Thurs	3/20/2025	0730-1030	Onsite Check-In	
	3/20/2025	0730-0830	Hot Breakfast Buffet	
	3/20/2025	0830-0930	GS3: Interoperability Progress: Helene as a Lens	Gabe Elias
	3/20/2025	0930-0945	Beverage Break	
	3/20/2025	0945-1015	State Coordinator Report	
	3/20/2025	1015-1115	GS4: Wildfire Mitigation Planning in the Face of Climate Change	Amie Fuller, Brie Haupt
	3/20/2025	1115-1130	Board Closing Remarks	

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