

VEMS26 Tentative Program  
as of 2/27/2026 (Subject to Change)

Time	Date	Event	Session Title	Main Presenter
1000-1600	3/16/2026	Intitutes of Higher Education Caucus Annual Meeting		
1400-1600	3/16/2026	Pre-Conference Service Project - Norfolk Animal Shelter		
1500-1800	3/16/2026	Vendor Setup		
1830-2000	3/16/2026	Onsite Check-In		
1830-2030	3/16/2026	Vendor Grand Hall Opening & Reception		
0615-0715	3/17/2026	Sunrise Yoga		
0700-1600	3/17/2026	Onsite Check-In		
0700-1330	3/17/2026	Vendor Hall Open		
0700-0800	3/17/2026	Breakfast in the Vendor Hall		
0800-0830	3/17/2026	Welcome, CG, Invocation, & Opening Ceremony, Local Speaker		
0830-0845	3/17/2026	State Coordinator Report	State Coordinator Report	John Scrivani
0845-0900	3/17/2026	VEMS Sponsors		
0900-0945	3/17/2026	Keynote	Special Presentation and Q&A	John Scrivani
0945-1015	3/17/2026	Beverge Break		
1015-1100	3/17/2026	Breakout Session A-1	Bringing Post-Disaster Aerial Imagery and Data Analytics into Response and Recovery Operations	Elizabeth Lohman with Dr. Kevin Kochersberger
1015-1100	3/17/2026	Breakout Session A-2	A tale of two teams: Response to the January 2025 water crisis	Rob Rowley
1015-1100	3/17/2026	Breakout Session A-3	Navigating Mass Care Together: A Unique Public-Faith Partnership	Matt Good
1015-1100	3/17/2026	Breakout Session A-4	REP in Motion: Navigating Public and Private Sector Coordination	Lindsay Elizabeth Mackey with Sammy Bawab
1015-1100	3/17/2026	Breakout Session A-5	Out of the Shadows: Creating Your Own Identity as a Local Emergency Manager	Jack McGovern with Amie Fuller
1100-1115	3/17/2026	Stretch Break		

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1115-1215	3/17/2026	Breakout Session B-1	Unchartered Waters: Navigating a 5 Day Water Outage in a Large Academic Medical Center	Jen Early with Stacy White
1115-1215	3/17/2026	Breakout Session B-2	Successful Agency Approaches to Response to Bridge Emergencies	Matt Lott
1115-1215	3/17/2026	Breakout Session B-3	A Telling of Two Tragedies: Examining the UVA and the Chesapeake Walmart FAC's and crisis response and recovery efforts	Julia Fuller-Wilson with Carolyn Dellorso
1115-1215	3/17/2026	Breakout Session B-4	Navigating the Unknown: Understanding the Psychology of a Crisis	Kathryn N Scourby
1115-1215	3/17/2026	Breakout Session B-5	Trouble Telling Your Story? Take 'em to School	Jeff Fletcher with Dr. Kelly Myers
1215-1330	3/17/2026	Lunch Buffet in Vendor Hall		
1245-1315	3/17/2025	Lunch Time Trivia with Riley and Rebecca		
1330-1430	3/17/2026	Breakout Session C-1	A bird's eye view: supporting disaster response with NASA's open satellite data	Joshua Barnes with Dr. John Cooney
1330-1430	3/17/2026	Breakout Session C-2	Strengthening Resilience in a VUCA Environment	Bob Campbell
1330-1430	3/17/2026	Breakout Session C-3	Legislative Panel	Brian Misner with Guests
1330-1430	3/17/2026	Breakout Session C-4	Lessons Learned from AA5243 plane crash at DCA	Kate Murphy
1330-1430	3/17/2026	Breakout Session C-5	Commonwealth of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan	Daniel A Johnson
1430-1445	3/17/2026	Stretch Break		
1445-1545	3/17/2026	Breakout Session D-1	AI at Work: Unlocking Productivity with Artificial Intelligence	David Morales

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1445-1545	3/17/2026	Breakout Session D-2	Cheat off your neighbor... How to get an A+ on your relationship with your Public Schools	Ethan Longenecker with Doug Joyner
1445-1545	3/17/2026	Breakout Session D-3	Down on Main Street: When Economic Recovery Becomes an Essential Lifeline	Will Drewery
1445-1545	3/17/2026	Breakout Session D-4	Lessons Learned from AA5243 plane crash at DCA	Kate Murphy
1445-1545	3/17/2026	Breakout Session D-5	An in Depth Look at NWS Wakefield's Total Water Level Forecast Process, its Challenges, and How Improved Tide Forecast Accuracy Has Helped to Better Support Critical Decision Making by Localities and Emergency Management in Coastal Virginia.	Jonathan McGee with Larry Brown
1545-1615	3/17/2026	Refreshment Break		
1615-1715	3/17/2026	Breakout Session E-1	Virginia Disaster Assistance Team: Supporting Citizens of Southwest Virginia Following Tropical Depression Helene	Stephanie Waite and Panel
1615-1715	3/17/2026	Breakout Session E-2	Your Other Local Partners: Emergency Management in Higher Education	Peter McCann with Tracie Giles, Clayton Oliver, and Maribel Street
1615-1715	3/17/2026	Breakout Session E-3	The Next Generation Emergency Manager: Leading Beyond the All-Hazards Mindset	Dan Eggleston with John Oprandy
1615-1715	3/17/2026	Breakout Session E-4	Cybersecurity in 15 Minutes: Mini Tabletop Exercises for Everyday Readiness	Zachary Langford

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1615-1715	3/17/2026	Breakout Session E-5	Navigating the Road to Cost Recovery: Past, Present, and Future	Brittany M Rubin with Elliot Day
1715-1815	3/17/2026	Reception in Vendor Hall		
1830-2130	3/17/2026	Social @ Circuit Sponsored by Alliance Solutions Group		
0700-0745	3/18/2026	Coffee with State Coordinaor and VIPs		
0700-1530	3/18/2026	Onsite Check-In		
0700-0800	3/18/2026	Breakfast		
0715-1315	3/18/2026	Silent Auction Open		
0800-0900	3/18/2026	GS-2	The Virginia Way: Rethinking Emergency Management	Alex Tran with Tonya Hockett, John Northon, Jessica Robison, and Jonathan Simmons
0900-0915	3/18/2026	Stretch Break		
0915-1015	3/18/2026	Breakout Session F-1	Private and Public Working Together to Navigate the Unknown	Robin Hillman with Wendy Bailey
0915-1015	3/18/2026	Breakout Session F-2	From Crisis to Coordination: Lessons from Richmond's 2025 Winter Weather Event	Stephen Willoughby with Aymar Mariño-Maza
0915-1015	3/18/2026	Breakout Session F-3	Strengthening Resilience: A Collaborative Approach to Infrastructure Protection in Washington, D.C.	Gregory Vernon with William McNamara
0915-1015	3/18/2026	Breakout Session F-4	Rising Tides, Eroding Support: Reimagining Social Support in Emergency Management	Sherilyn Burris
0915-1015	3/18/2026	Breakout Session F-5	Capability, Capacity, Collaboration, and Credentialing: Ingredients for Resilient Emergency Management Through Standards Compliance	Marcia Deppen with Walter English
1015-1045	3/18/2026	Beverage Break		

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1045-1145	3/18/2026	Breakout Session G-1	AI and Transformations in the National Weather Service to Help Emergency Management Decisions	Eric S Seymour with Chris Strong, Nicholas Fillo, Jonathan McGee, and Larry Brown
1045-1145	3/18/2026	Breakout Session G-2	Building Resilience from the Ground Up: Warrenton's New Standalone Emergency Management Agency	Johnny H Switzer
1045-1145	3/18/2026	Breakout Session G-3	Integrating ICS into Richmond Police Supervisor Training	Bill Lawson with Sergeant Tony Paciello
1045-1145	3/18/2026	Breakout Session G-4	Navigating Generations: A Collaborative Endeavor	Riley McConnell
1045-1145	3/18/2026	Breakout Session G-5	The Virginia Flood Monitoring System: Real-Time Situational Awareness	Karen Lindquist
1145-1315	3/18/2026	Luncheon and Membership Meeting		
1315-1415	3/18/2026	Breakout Session H-1	The Plan We Hope to Never Use: The Commonwealth of Virginia Mass Fatality Response Annex	Perla Santillán with Maria Garrits
1315-1415	3/18/2026	Breakout Session H-2	Journey from Butler County MO to Isle of Wight County VA: Takeaways from the 2025 Virginia Tornado & Straight-line Wind Summit	Joshua G. Behr with Dr. Wie Yusuf, Dr. Monica Arul and Ms. Kaleen Lawsure
1315-1415	3/18/2026	Breakout Session H-3	Anchored in Readiness: Strengthening School Safety Through the Incident Command System, the Standard Response Protocol, and Partnership with Local First Responders	Kristin Conville with Brian Bennett, Stephanie Sutton and Sam Carr

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1315-1415	3/18/2026	Breakout Session H-4	Turning data into decisions for stronger disaster resilience	Colleen Marchesano
1315-1415	3/18/2026	Breakout Session H-5	Blue Book and You: Local Resources for Catastrophic Planning	Michelle T Oblinsky with Rachel Slotter
1415-1430	3/18/2026	Stretch Break		
1430-1530	3/18/2026	Breakout Session I-1	AI in Action: How Virginia's Emergency Managers are Transforming Operations	Emily L Ruesch with Walter English and Sara Ruch
1430-1530	3/18/2026	Breakout Session I-2	Getting Real About Disaster Housing	Megan Bond with Chris Smith
1430-1530	3/18/2026	Breakout Session I-3	From Theory to Crisis: How Draft Continuity Plans Guided Our County Through a Live Cybersecurity Attack	Kristy Shifflett with Kirby Felts
1430-1530	3/18/2026	Breakout Session I-4	PDA vs. SDE: Navigating the Different Roles They Play in the Post-Disaster Setting	Brandy Buford
1430-1530	3/18/2026	Breakout Session I-5	Wildfire Mitigation Planning in the Face of Climate Change: The Template	Amie Fuller
1530-1600	3/18/2026	Silent Auction Bids Close		
1530-1600	3/18/2026	Refreshment Break		
1600-1700	3/18/2026	Breakout Session J-1	First Responder on Scene: A Pilot Partnership Between Dominion Energy and Virginia's Public Safety Community	Jeff Sopel with Shawn Talmedge, Chief Charles Werner, and Sara Ruch
1600-1700	3/18/2026	Breakout Session J-2	"Long and Winding Road to Recovery" or "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road to Recovery" an overview of Long-Term Recovery to Music.	Curtis William Crawford

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1600-1700	3/18/2026	Breakout Session J-3	Post-Disaster Loss Avoidance Studies in the Commonwealth of Virginia	Kaleen Lawsure with Gail Gronlund
1600-1700	3/18/2026	Breakout Session J-4	From Uncertainty to Unified Action: How the Port of Virginia's Joint Port Recovery Executive Committee Exercise Strengthened Multi-Agency Readiness for the Unknown.	Peggy M Britton
1600-1700	3/18/2026	Breakout Session J-5	Emergency Call Routing and the "Why" of Next Generation 9-1-1	Matt Gerike
1700-1715	3/18/2026	Silent Auction Payment & Basket Pickup		
1800-1830	3/18/2026	VEMA Group Photo & Reception		
1830-2130	3/18/2026	Award/Scholarship Presentations, Dinner & Entertainment (on site)		
0730-1030	3/19/2026	Onsite Check-In		
0730-0830	3/19/2026	Hot Breakfast Buffet		
0830-0930	3/19/2026	GS-3	9-1-1: Navigating Cybersecurity in the PSAP	Ryan Burkholder and Panelists
0930-0945	3/19/2026	Beverge Break		
0945-1045	3/19/2026	GS-4	2025 Central Va Water Response	Amanda Weaver, James Reynolds, Rob Rowley, Stephen Willoughby
1045-1115	3/19/2026	Board Closing Remarks		