



Emergency Managers and Elected/Senior Officials: Navigating the Dynamic

June 8th from 12:30pm-2:30pm ET

Presented by:

Dr. Jeffrey Stern, Ph. D., Superintendent, Emergency Management Institute and **Michael J. Sharon**, MA, Director (acting), Individual and Community Preparedness Division, National Preparedness Directorate & Deputy Superintendent, Emergency Management Institute

Course Description: This 2 hour virtual seminar will explore the complex relationship between emergency managers and elected or appointed senior officials in a phases of the emergency management cycle. Topics will include the relationship between career staff and elected officials, effectively communicating emergency management principles and processes to senior officials, and demonstrating the need for emergency manager programs to be approached with equitable outcomes as a core result. The intended audience is local, state, or Federal emergency managers who regularly interact with elected or appointed senior officials.

Speaker Bios:

Dr. Jeff Stern is the Superintendent of the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, Maryland. He previously led the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, where he was responsible for disaster and homeland security preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery efforts across the Commonwealth. Appointed in 2014 by Governor Terry McAuliffe, Dr. Stern led Virginia through nearly 50 emergency declarations over 6 years and deployed Virginia's first responders to disasters across the United States, including Hawaii, Alaska, California, Texas, Florida, Georgia, South

Carolina, North Carolina, West Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. He also chaired the Virginia 911 Board and oversaw all the Commonwealth's homeland security and emergency management grant programs.

Dr. Stern served for more than three decades as an emergency manager, first responder, agency executive, adviser, and consultant. Over the course of his career, he served in local, state, and federal government positions, in the private sector, and in academe, including presidential appointments as a White House Fellow at the Department of the Interior and the White House Homeland Security Council, and as Executive Director of the Homeland Security Advisory Council, the advisory board to the Secretary of Homeland Security. Dr. Stern began his career as a firefighter and paramedic, serving through the rank of battalion chief with departments in Maryland, Virginia, and Colorado, and deployed with incident management teams to Hurricanes Charley (2004) and Katrina (2005), and the Haiti earthquake (2010).

Dr. Stern served on several advisory and policy boards, including FEMA National Advisory Council, where he chaired the Response and Recovery Committee and the FEMA 2040 Committee, the U.S. Department of Commerce's FirstNet Public Safety Advisory Committee, the National Capital Region Homeland Security Executive Committee, the National Homeland Security Consortium, the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology First Responders Resource Group, and the College of William & Mary Public Policy Program Advisory Board. Dr. Stern is a member of both the International Association of Emergency Managers and the National Emergency Management Association, where he served as legislative committee chairman on the Board of Directors during the passage of the landmark Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018.

Dr. Stern graduated from the College of William and Mary (B.A. Government), the American University School of Public Affairs (MPA), and the Virginia Tech Center for Public Administration and Policy (Ph.D.), and he has attended the Naval Postgraduate School Executive Leaders Program. He is a Certified Emergency Manager and a National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer. He is an adjunct professor at Georgetown University.

Michael Sharon is the Deputy Superintendent at the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) in Emmitsburg, MD. He previously worked at

FEMA Region III as Director of National Preparedness, Planning Branch Chief, and Regional Integration Branch Chief. Mike is also currently assigned as Chief of the National Response Coordination Center's Gold Team and serves as liaison to the US Secret Service during National Special Security Events.

Mike began his Federal career at the U.S. Department of State, where he helped develop the Department's domestic emergency management and business continuity programs. He also held a variety of emergency management positions at the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Maryland Emergency Management Agency.

Mike earned a Master of Strategic Studies degree from the U.S. Army War College, a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Baltimore, a Master of Arts in Military History from Norwich University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from LaSalle University with dual majors in sociology and criminal justice.