



Preparing the Nation for Space Weather Events

Presented by **Dr. Jennifer “Jinni” Meehan**, National Space Weather Program Manager for the Analyze, Forecast and Support Office, NOAA’s National Weather Service; **Shawn Dahl**, Space Weather Forecaster, NOAA’s Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC); and **Kenyetta Blunt**, Deputy Division Director of Planning and Exercise Division, FEMA

Pre-Registration Required

Abstract: Space weather is a natural hazard that can significantly affect critical infrastructure essential to the economy, social wellbeing, and national security, such as electrical power, water supply, healthcare, and transportation. Accordingly, there is increased interest in space weather as part of emergency management planning and hazard risk assessments. This session will provide participants with an overview of space weather, how to better prepare for, protect against, and mitigate the effects of space weather events and discuss the roles of the Federal Government, local, and jurisdictional Emergency Managers in preparing for and mitigating such impacts. An overview of FEMA’s Federal Operating Concept for Impending Space Weather Events and new Emergency Management Institute course, “IS-66: Preparing the Nation for Space Weather Events” will also be provided.

2 hrs.: Fri. 4/21, 10:00am – 12:00pm
No Minimum or Maximum Participation

Instructors – Dr. Jennifer “Jinni” Meehan, Shawn Dahl, Kenyetta Blunt

Fee: Complimentary for registered attendees

Panelist and Bios:

- **Dr. Jennifer “Jinni” Meehan** is the National Space Weather Program Manager for the Analyze, Forecast and Support Office at NOAA’s National Weather Service (NWS) headquarters in Silver Spring, MD. Jinni manages one of the 11 service programs of the NWS, space weather, and provides the coordination needed within NOAA and across the Federal government to ensure a Space-Weather-Ready Nation. Jinni works with NOAA’s Space Weather Prediction Center on issues related to global, national, regional, and local policy, products, and services to leverage resources and support forecast consistency. Jinni is the Executive Secretary of the White House Space Weather Operations, Research, and Mitigation (SWORM) Interagency Subcommittee. She is also helping to lead NOAA’s mandated responsibilities with the 2020 passage of the Promoting Research and Observations of Space Weather to Improve the Forecasting of Tomorrow (PROSWIFT) Act. She was appointed as the Designated Federal Officer of the PROSWIFT Act directed Space Weather Advisory Group that advises the SWORM. Prior to joining NOAA NWS, Jinni served as a postdoctoral research fellow at the Air Force Institute of Technology located at Wright Patterson, AFB in Dayton, OH. Jinni earned her Ph.D. in Physics from Utah State University.

- **Mr. Shawn Dahl** is a space weather forecaster at NOAA’s Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC) in Boulder, CO. Shawn signed on with the U.S. Air Force in 1985, where he spent 22 years serving around the world in the intelligence and meteorology operations' fields; all while continuing university studies in history and physical sciences. He retired from the Air Force in 2007 and held jobs as a meteorological technician for the National Weather Service (NWS) and as a lead weather forecaster for the U.S. Air Force. He finally settled into his current position at SWPC eight years ago. Shawn also conducts additional work at SWPC as a focal point for customer decision support services, training, and education-outreach programs. Shawn's work in education and outreach was recognized by the NWS as a National level Cline Award winner in 2018.

- **Ms. Kenyetta Blunt** serves as the Deputy Division Director of FEMA’s Planning and Exercise Division. FEMA’s Planning and Exercise Division leads the development and maintenance of all-hazard, risk-based response plans across the Federal Government for catastrophic emergencies and maintains supporting programs to enhance the planning process and readiness among whole community partners to respond to

disasters. She also provides strategic guidance and management to FEMA's planning and exercise programs while ensuring national and regional readiness when responding to a variety of different disasters. Kenyetta previously served the Branch Chief of the National Planning Branch where she oversaw the development of the Federal Operating Concept for Impending Space Weather Events, the Power Outage Incident Annex, the update to the Federal Interagency Operations Plan amongst other Federal Interagency response and recovery plans. Before moving to the Response Directorate, Ms. Blunt held several positions such as the Chief of the Recovery Planning, Exercise and Doctrine Branch where she developed the National Disaster Recovery Framework and the Recovery Federal Interagency Operational Plan as well as developed several exercises that specifically addressed short and longer term recovery issues. She also spent several years working in FEMA's Individual Assistance Policy Branch where she developed policies, procedures, and guidance to address a multitude of issues arising from 9/11 recovery efforts, the 2004 Florida Hurricane incidents, 2005 Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and 2012 Hurricane Sandy. She started her emergency management career in 1998 assisting disaster survivors applying for FEMA disaster assistance.