

Josh Morton, CEM
Director, Saluda County (SC) Emergency Management Division
&
IAEM-USA 1st Vice President

Speaker Bio:

Josh Morton has served as the Director of the Saluda County (SC) Emergency Management Division since 2012. Prior to that, he served as a Regional Emergency Manager with the South Carolina Emergency Management Division from 2007-2012. Josh's exposure to the emergency management profession began as a volunteer firefighter when he was in high school. His first position in the profession was as an emergency planner and CERT team coordinator for the Chester County (SC) Emergency Management Agency. Josh's wife Bethany is also an emergency manager and has served as part of the Regional Emergency Management Program at the South Carolina Emergency Management Division since 2008.

Josh served as IAEM-USA Region 4 President-Elect from 2018-2020, and Region 4 President from 2020-2022. In 2021, he was elected by the Regional Presidents to represent them as the At-Large Member of the IAEM-USA Executive Committee. In August 2023, Josh was elected to serve as the next IAEM-USA 2nd Vice President and is now the IAEM-USA 1st Vice President.

Presentation:

**Seasoned Practitioners have an Open Conversation on the 2024
Hurricane Season**

The Southeast United States was struck with back-to-back major hurricanes in the early fall of this year. Seasoned emergency managers were put to the test as multiple states saw horrendous disasters strike in historic fashion. From Florida to Pennsylvania and every state in-between, we saw wind and rain events that left many of our citizens and communities devastated. In this open, unscripted conversation, we will hear from some of those emergency managers, giving lessons learned from this season which was like few others.