

19. What's Next For Kentucky? How to Be Ready When MAJOR Disaster Strikes

Two major disasters and several in-state emergency declarations have devastated locations in Kentucky in less than a year. Not only should you be ready for the initial response, but you must also know that help is coming and what to do to prepare for that. Less than 24 hours after devastating tornadoes ravaged Kentucky on December 10-11, 2021, groups from across the state arrived in the hardest-hit communities. While some initially were tasked with providing incident support for a USAR mission at a high-profile structural collapse, many found themselves assisting county coordination and response throughout Western Kentucky. When these teams come to help, what should you expect? They are there to assist YOU, not to take over. With an All-Hazards Incident Management Team (AHIMT) concept in mind, there will be a transition that needs to take place, with the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) still represented in the Unified Command. This is a national process that takes place that will also help local communities when federal agencies respond. Command and General Staff position must be represented early in a large incident to help a seamless transition take place if needed. Students will get an introduction to the AHIMT concept and hear how these transitions took place, not only during the tornadoes, but also the flooding that devastated Eastern Kentucky. You must know the "Planning Process" and the proper forms that go along with each designated function. The presentation will end with a simulation that will involve the student performing the initial response, as well as the transition to familiarize how this will take place. Members from throughout the state who responded to these FEMA Type I Incidents, which were the first designated in Kentucky's history, will be present to speak on best practice during these incidents.

Instructor

Edward Jody Meiman has over 30 years of experience in local emergency preparedness and response. He currently serves as Executive Director for Louisville Metro Emergency Services which involves Emergency Management, EMS, MetroSafe (911 Call Center), 311, Office of Special Events, and 911 Mental Health Deflection. He holds an associate degree in Fire and Safety Technology and retired as Battalion Chief with the Louisville Division of Fire and Rescue after 20 years of service. He also retired from Lake Dreamland Volunteer Fire Department in southwest Jefferson County as an Assistant Chief. Jody is a Certified Emergency Medical Technician. He has participated and served as an "on-scene" Incident Commander" during several complex hazardous material incidents and specialized rescue responses across Kentucky and is the Emergency Operations Center Manager during many of the large special events that take place in Louisville including Thunder Over Louisville, and all other events that involve the Kentucky Derby Festival.

He worked and was a lead instructor for over 15 years with Industrial Safety and Training Services (ISTS) conducting environmental, health and safety training across the United States. Through his travel he performed course development at all levels of competency for Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) hazardous materials and Homeland Security training initiatives including Emergency Response to Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), and Response to Terrorism.

He is a National Fire Academy – certified instructor for a host of academy course work and he routinely serves as an exercise evaluator for the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program initiative during drills, functional and full-scale exercises. He routinely consults and trains with other state, local and private sector clients on National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliance, National Response Framework components, and Emergency Management Protocols to ensure coordinated relationships among response organizations and industries to promote sound preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation practices.