

# Leveraging the FEMA National Exercise Program to Meet the Challenge of Climate Change in Your Community

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**Background/Objectives.** Extreme weather events related to climate change pose a profound threat for our nation. In 2022, there were 85 federally declared disasters, most of which resulted from fires, severe storms and flooding, compared to the 1980s, which experienced an average of 29 federally declared disasters per year. To address the threat of climate change and continue to execute its mission to protect people before, during and after disasters, FEMA established a strategic goal to lead whole-of-community climate resilience. To that end, FEMA launched several resources to help communities adapt to climate change, including the Climate Adaptation Exercise Series and the Long-Term Community Resilience Exercise Resource Guide. Join FEMA's National Exercise Division (NED) to learn how the Climate Adaptation Exercise Series and the Long-Term Community Resilience Exercise Resource Guide can help communities increase their climate literacy, develop climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, and leverage data on future climate conditions to inform decision-making

**Approach/Activities.** In this presentation, NED will provide information on how to partner with the National Exercise Program to organize a climate-focused exercise for your community. Exercises offer a low-risk, cost-effective forum for the whole community to discuss and better understand threats and hazards; test and validate local plans, policies, and procedures; and identify resource requirements to address capability gaps and other areas for improvement. Participants will work through examples of how climate-resilience exercises can help communities increase their climate literacy, develop climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, and leverage future conditions data for decision-making. NED will also highlight how communities can use the Exercise Resource Guide as a "one-stop-shop" to conduct a climate-focused exercise.

**Results/Lessons Learned.** Audience members will walk away from this presentation with an understanding of the benefits of leveraging FEMA's resources to work across the whole community to build a culture of preparedness related to climate change. This includes an overview of FEMA's National Exercise Program (NEP), strategies to increase understanding and awareness of risk, and demonstration of how exercises assess the viability of existing plans and procedures to help focus resources where they matter most.