

New York State Emergency Management Association Annual Conference



2026 NYSEMA CONFERENCE

CALL FOR SPEAKERS & PRESENTATIONS

FEBRUARY 10-12, 2026

Embassy Suites at Destiny USA

Syracuse, New York

www.nysema.org

NYSEMA Annual Conference Call for Speakers and Presentations

Call for Speakers & Presentations

The New York State Emergency Management Association (NYSEMA) invites you to submit a proposal for the 2026 NYSEMA Annual Conference, February 10th – 12th in Syracuse, NY. The conference will provide an outstanding mix of educational workshops and presentations to showcase concepts, technology, processes, and evidence-based practices in emergency management.

Approximately 250 emergency management professionals are expected for the NYSEMA Conference. Educate your peers and contribute to the field by submitting a presentation proposal for consideration.

Speaker Call

All applications for speaker presentations must be submitted by close of business on November 15, 2025, to be considered. There will be no exceptions to this deadline. If submitting for multiple presentations, please fill out a new application for each presentation. The following presentation times are to be considered:

- Abbreviated Presentations: 30 minutes
- General Presentation: 45 minutes to 1 hour
- Keynote Presentation: 2 to 4 hours

Structure your presentation(s) to allow time for Q&A within the time allocated.

Conference Focus

Submissions should be focused towards emerging emergency preparedness issues, events, equipment, etc. Presentations should also be applicable to a wide audience range to include, but not limited to:

- Emergency managers (municipal, county, state, other)
- Disaster planners
- Homeland security professionals
- Communications system specialists
- Crisis and risk managers
- Contingency planners
- Business continuity planners
- Health and human services providers
- Public safety chief officers/directors
- Healthcare disaster professionals
- Meteorologists
- EM/terrorism educators
- VOADS (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster)

Vendor-related proposals will not be accepted. A person who is employed by a commercial vendor can submit a proposal but it must be demonstrated that the presentation will not be related to a particular product, brand or service.

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Conference Dates and Location

February 10, 11, and 12, 2026 at the Embassy Suites at Destiny USA, Syracuse, NY.

As a thank you for presenting at the NYSEMA Annual Conference, each speaker will receive complimentary registration. NYSEMA will also cover up to two nights hotel stay, depending on travel arrangements and at the determination of the NYSEMA Executive Board.

Tips for Completing the Application

- Read all instructions carefully
- Complete all fields – incomplete applications will be disqualified
- Double check for typos before you submit

Important Dates

- **Submissions are due by November 15, 2025**
- NYSEMA will notify speakers of selections around December 1, 2025
- Presenters must be registered on-line for the conference at least one month prior to the event. Registration is required, but registration fee will be waived.

Scoring Applications

The Conference Committee will review all presentations - selection will be based on the following criteria:

- Topic and relevance to the conference, key priorities, and attendee base
- Focus on best practices, lessons learned and tools and resources that can be applied in New York State
- Written description and learning objectives
- Speaker expertise
- Research findings are welcome, provided the session is aimed at practitioners and balanced with sufficient practical information (i.e. 'here's how this can be applied to XYZ')
- Absence of commercial sales content for services or products
- Proposal clearly identifies what will occur in the session in the format and time allotted
- Proposal describes how the session will effectively engage the audience in innovative thinking about new or proven ideas and approaches
- Proposal raises important questions or delivers positive, solution-oriented outcomes supported by research and/or program evaluation

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Proposal Submission

Proposals must be submitted via our Online Application: <https://nysema.org/speakers.php>

Use the worksheet at the end of this document to assure you have everything you need to fill out the online application.

Contacts

All inquiries regarding speakers and presentations shall be directed to:

- Daniel Wears / Christopher Jensen
E-mail: dwears@ongov.net / jensenc@co.rockland.ny.us

About NYSEMA

The New York State Emergency Management Association (NYSEMA) is a non-profit organization supporting and enhancing local emergency management efforts in the state.

We facilitate that by the following:

- Promote active, on-going and adequately funded emergency management programs at all levels of government (local, State and Federal).
- Build on the foundation of existing emergency management plans, systems and capabilities to broaden their applicability to the full spectrum of emergencies, emphasizing implementation of emergency management measures that are known to be effective.
- Foster a full Local, State and Federal Governmental Partnership with provisions for flexibility at all levels of government for achieving common goals.
- Promote more complete integration of emergency management planning into Local and State policy making and operational systems.
- Assist in the development of a coordinated response network through the combined efforts of Local, State, Federal Agencies and the Private Sector.

www.NYSEMA.org

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Online Application Worksheet

Primary Contact:

First & Last Name	
Company	
Title	
E-Mail/Phone	

Presenter 1:

First and Last Name	
Degrees (if applicable) Ph.D, M.A., etc	
Company	
Position	
E-Mail	
Phone	
Street Address	
City, State, Zip Code	
Presenter Biography (up to 200 words)	

DO NOT MAIL THIS FORM AS A SUBMISSION. ALL PROPOSALS MUST BE VIA THE ONLINE LINK.

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Presenter 2:

First and Last Name	
Degrees (if applicable) Ph.D, M.A., etc	
Company	
Position	
E-Mail	
Phone	
Street Address	
City, State, Zip Code	
Presenter Biography (up to 200 words)	

Presentation:

Title of Presentation	
Presentation Length	
Session Description (up to 200 words)	

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Training Objectives	1.) 2.) 3.) 4.) 5.)
Audiovisual and Equipment Needs	☐ None ☐ Computer projector, and screen PowerPoint and (for similar presentations) ☐ Sound (for videos, etc.) ☐ # of microphones ☐ Other:

After your presentation is accepted

All accepted presenters must register for the conference one week prior to the start of the event. Presenters not registered by this date will not be included in the program. It is recommended that the presenter commence all travel and accommodation arrangements after receiving notification that their presentation was accepted.

For keynote presentations (as determined by the NYSEMA Executive Board), other related expenses related to travel will also be covered by NYSEMA. All travel arrangements must be made in advance and the speaker(s) will be reimbursed on-site at the conference. No reimbursement is made for travel that is not made due to weather or other factors.

NYSEMA will provide a computer and projector for displaying of your presentation. All presentations should be available in PowerPoint format and a copy made available on a USB drive. A copy of all presentations is retained by NYSEMA and a PDF version made available following the conference on our website. If certain information is not able to be released, this should be discussed with NYSEMA in advance.

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