December 3-4, 2026

WINTER CONFERENCE

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Commerical Hog Farm Fire: Causes, Response and Prevention

This session reviews a large commercial hog farm fire, examining the challenges responders faced, the impact of weather on suppression efforts, lessons learned, and opportunities to improve resource identification, coordination, and decision-making during complex agricultural fire incidents.

Holly Langham

Brian Bennington

Bryan Huddleston

Ohio Poison Centers: Overview & Capabilities

This session provides an overview of the poison control systems in the U.S. and Ohio, highlighting poison centers' roles in emergency response, disaster support, and community partnerships. Participants will explore real-world response examples, collaborative efforts, and key lessons learned.

Natalie Rine

Hannah Hays

Shan Yin

Jon Colvin

When the Plan Breaks: Training Emergency Managers to Improvise Under Pressure

This session explores disciplined improvisation in emergency management and shows how realistic exercises can strengthen adaptive decision-making, reveal planning gaps, improve EOC coordination, and prepare whole-community partners for uncertain, resource-constrained, rapidly changing incidents. Participants will learn practical ways to build ambiguity, pressure, and decision points into better exercises.

Marc Burdiss

We Can't Make This Stuff Up...But AI Can: Operational Reality vs. Digital Hallucinations

Using a drill at a local mall as a case study, this session examines how AI-generated misinformation created false emergency reports, the challenges of correcting them, and strategies to protect public information, preserve digital evidence, and strengthen post-incident communication in an AI-driven environment.

Tim Warstler

Matt Sweeney

More Than a Post: Making the Most of Social Media to Build Trust, Increase Engagement, & Support Preparedness

This session equips EM professionals to use social media to deliver clear, consistent, engaging, and action-oriented communication. Participants will explore effective message crafting, basic graphic design, content creation, and public engagement strategies to strengthen their digital presence, build public trust, increase community awareness, and foster a more informed, engaged, and prepared community.

Laura Johnston

Garrett Blevins

July 31, 2025: The St. Marys Building Collapse

This presentation examines a building collapse that resulted in a fatality, multiple injuries, and resident displacement. Attendees will review the incident timeline and lessons learned, including local CERT utilization, coordination with first responders and the coroner, regional USAR requests, collaborating with Ohio EMA Regional personnel in the command post, post-incident documentation, and managing public requests.

Troy Anderson

AuxComm: Connecting When It Matters Most

This session examines Auxiliary Communications (AuxComm), covering its role in emergency response, appropriate deployment, essential equipment and software, training opportunities, exercise participation, and real-world examples demonstrating how AuxComm supports effective incident communications.

Troy Blair

An Introduction to the CMIST Framework: A Tool for Ensuring Resources Are Accessible to All

This session will provide a high-level overview of the CMIST framework for addressing the needs of Persons with Disabilities and other Access and Functional Needs before, during, and after an incident. Emphasis will be placed on examples of how to address the components of CMIST, potential partner organizations, in addition to other planning considerations for possible implementation of this framework.

Josh Vittie

From the Field: How Ohio Emergency Managers Are Putting Artificial Intelligence to Work

AI is changing how Ohio emergency management agencies operate - improving efficiency, easing staffing and resource strain, and supporting faster decisions. This session shares practical applications and implementation lessons straight from the field, covering common challenges and strategies for evaluating and responsibly integrating AI tools into your own program.

Tom Sivak

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