

# 2026 EMAT CONFERENCE MURFREESBORO

2026 EMAT Conference – Embassy Suites Murfreesboro

*\*All Times listed are Central Standard Time (CST)*

Tuesday, April 28, 2026	
7:30 a.m.	<b>Registration Opens Presented by ReadyOp (Conference Center Atrium)</b>
8:00 am	<b>Industry Partner Exhibits Open – (Mirabella F-J)</b>
8:00 am	<b>CEM Exam – Rutherford County EMA Office – 1220 W College Street, Murfreesboro 37129</b>
10:30 am	<p><b>Opening Ceremonies – (Mirabella E)</b>  <i>Welcome &amp; Announcements – Mike Gregory, Conference Chair</i>  <i>Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance – Jim Tanner, President Emeritus EMAT</i>  <i>Presentation of Colors – LaVergne Fire Color Guard</i>  <i>National Anthem – Sherri Hanna, Executive Director, Obion County ECD-911</i></p> <p><b><u>Welcome Addresses</u></b>  <b>Patrick Sheehan, TEMA Director – Welcome</b>  <b>Jeff Hardy, EMAT President</b>  <b>Joe Carr, Rutherford County Mayor</b>  <b>Shane McFarland, Mayor of Murfreesboro</b>  <b>Mike O’Sullivan, SDS Weather, Conference Title Partner</b>  <b>Matt Church, Ozone Environmental Services, Conference Title Partner</b>  <b>Al Willimon, Safe Industries, Conference Title Partner</b>  <b>Marc Moore, ReadyOp, Conference Title Partner</b>  <b>Jay Baxter, MyEMAapp.com, Conference Title Partner</b></p>
11:00 am	<p><b>Keynote Address Presented by Garner Environmental Services (Mirabella E)</b>  <b>Josh Morton – IAEM USA President</b></p>
12:00 pm	<b>Lunch Reception with Industry Partners (Mirabella F-J)</b>
1:00 pm	<p><b>The Power of Trust: Leading Through Crisis, Clarity and Character (Mirabella E)</b>  <b>John Mathews, JM Consultants</b></p>
1:45 pm	<b>Industry Partner Break Presented by DEN Systems &amp; SDR (Mirabella F-J)</b>
2:15 pm	<p><b>ReadyTN Faith (Mirabella E)</b>  <b>Bethany Kelly, Faith Based Partnership Manager, TEMA</b></p>
3:00 pm	<b>Industry Partner Break Presented by Forerunner (Mirabella F-J)</b>
3:30 pm	<p><b>A View from the Other Side (Mirabella E)</b>  <b>Chris Clark, Director – Rutherford County EMA</b>  <b>Tina Henson, President – First Noelle Foundation</b></p>
4:15 pm	<p><b>Beyond the Hype: How We Communicate &amp; Respond to Low-Probability, High-Impact Events (Mirabella E)</b>  <b>Megan Schargorodski, State Meteorologist – TEMA</b>  <b>Krissy Hurley, Chief Meteorologist – National Weather Service Nashville</b></p>
5:00 pm	<b>EMAT Membership Meeting/EMAT 101 (Mirabella E)</b>
6:00 pm	<b>Opening Night Social Presented by Safe Industries (Mirabella F-J &amp; Parking Lot)</b>

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Wednesday, April 29, 2026	
6:00 am	<b>Breakfast Buffet Opens</b> (Embassy Suites Atrium)
7:00 am	<b>Registration Opens</b> Presented by ReadyOp (Conference Center Atrium)
7:30 am	<b>Industry Partner Exhibits Open</b> (Mirabella F-J)
8:00 am	<b>Keynote Address: Under Pressure: Leading with Stability Through the Storm with Emotional Intelligence</b> Presented by NAFECO (Mirabella E) <b>Dr. Martha Rader, CEO – Rader Coaching, Training, &amp; Consulting LLC</b>
8:45 am	<b>Industry Partner Break</b> Presented by Jack Daniels (Mirabella F-J)
9:30 am	<b>Breakout Sessions/Training</b>
	<b>When Minutes Matter: Statewide Contract for Swift Action</b> (Oakleigh A) <b>Laitin Beecham, Director of Category Management – State of Tennessee</b> <b>Helen Crowley, Procurement Compliance Team Lead – State of Tennessee</b>
	<b>Impact to Recovery</b> (Oakleigh B) <b>How Local Emergency Management Influences the Survivor Journey</b> <b>Kate Amaral, Non-Government Partnerships Manager – TEMA</b>
	<b>Speaking Calm in Chaos: Communicating Effectively with the Public After Disasters</b> (Oakleigh C) <b>Kristin Coulter, Communications Director – TEMA</b>
	<b>Disaster Leadership &amp; Community Resilience</b> (Cambridge A) <b>Pat Woodmansee, Assistant Director – Maury County EMA</b>
	<b>Public Health Emergency Preparedness &amp; AI: Moving Forward</b> (Cambridge B) <b>James Logan, Emergency Response Coordinator – Shelby Co. Health Dept.</b>
	<b>The Importance of an IMT Entourage: The Importance of Providing Local Knowledge to the IMT</b> (Broadlands A) <b>Jason Powell, Assistant Chief – Johnson City Fire Department</b>
	<b>Hurricane Helene, Douglas Lake Response, Recovery, Outreach &amp; Communication</b> (Broadlands B) <b>Scott Turnbow, Vice President Civil Projects &amp; Equipment Support Services – TVA</b>
	<b>National Weather Service Updates</b> (Mirabella A) <b>Ryan Husted, Warning Coordination Meteorologist – NWS Nashville</b>
	<b>TN-HART – Who We Are &amp; What We Do</b> (Mirabella B) <b>Michael Culberson, Rescue Specialist – Tennessee Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team</b>
	<b>TEMA 402 Training Course</b> (Mirabella C) <b>TEMA Training</b>
	<b>Incident Management Teams</b> (Mirabella D) <b>TEMA Staff</b>
10:15 am	<b>Industry Partner Break</b> Presented by Tango Tango (Mirabella F-J)
10:45 am	<b>Breakout Sessions/Training</b>
	<b>When Minutes Matter: Statewide Contract for Swift Action</b> (Oakleigh A) <b>Laitin Beecham, Director of Category Management – State of Tennessee</b> <b>Helen Crowley, Procurement Compliance Team Lead – State of Tennessee</b>
	<b>Impact to Recovery</b> (Oakleigh B) <b>How Local Emergency Management Influences the Survivor Journey</b> <b>Kate Amaral, Non-Government Partnerships Manager – TEMA</b>

	<p><b>Speaking Calm in Chaos: Communicating Effectively with the Public After Disasters (Oakleigh C)</b>  <b>Kristin Coulter, Communications Director – TEMA</b></p>
	<p><b>Disaster Leadership &amp; Community Resilience (Cambridge A)</b>  <b>Pat Woodmansee, Assistant Director – Maury County EMA</b></p>
	<p><b>Public Health Emergency Preparedness &amp; AI: Moving Forward (Cambridge B)</b>  <b>James Logan, Emergency Response Coordinator – Shelby Co. Health Dept.</b></p>
	<p><b>The Importance of an IMT Entourage: The Importance of Providing Local Knowledge to the IMT (Broadlands A)</b>  <b>Jason Powell, Assistant Chief – Johnson City Fire Department</b></p>
	<p><b>Hurricane Helene, Douglas Lake Response, Recovery, Outreach &amp; Communication (Broadlands B)</b>  <b>Scott Turnbow, Vice President Civil Projects &amp; Equipment Support Services – TVA</b></p>
	<p><b>National Weather Service Updates (Mirabella A)</b>  <b>Ryan Husted, Warning Coordination Meteorologist – NWS Nashville</b></p>
	<p><b>TN-HART – Who We Are &amp; What We Do (Mirabella B)</b>  <b>Michael Culberson, Rescue Specialist – Tennessee Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team</b></p>
	<p><b>TEMA 402 Training Course (Mirabella C)</b>  <b>TEMA Training</b></p>
	<p><b>Incident Management Teams (Mirabella D)</b>  <b>TEMA Staff</b></p>
11:30 am	<b>Industry Partner Break (Mirabella F-J)</b>
12:00 pm	<b>2026 EMAT Industry Awards Luncheon (Mirabella E)</b>
2:00 pm	<b>Breakout Sessions/Training</b>
	<p><b>Controlling the Narrative in an AI World: How to Fight Misinformation (Oakleigh A)</b>  <b>Chance Craven, Chief Brand Officer – Safe Industries</b></p>
	<p><b>Enabling Better Decision Making (Oakleigh B)</b>  <b>Kate Guillet, Warning Coordination Meteorologist – NWS Huntsville</b></p>
	<p><b>A Bird’s Eye View: Supporting Disaster Response with NASA’s Open Satellite Data (Oakleigh C)</b>  <b>Joshua Barnes, Manager, Disaster Response Coordination System – NASA</b></p>
	<p><b>Understanding the Importance of Process When Implementing NIMS (Cambridge A)</b>  <b>Martin Senterfitt, President, NIMS Logic</b></p>
	<p><b>Understanding Hazard Mitigation (Cambridge B)</b>  <b>Brent Phillips, District Coordinator – TEMA</b></p>
	<p><b>The Appalachian Way: Visionary Leadership, Trusted Messengers, Building Recovery (Broadlands A)</b>  <b>Kat Latham, Regional Director of Disaster Recovery – United Way of East TN Highlands</b>  <b>Leslie Dalton, President &amp; CEO – United Way of East TN Highlands</b></p>
	<p><b>Building Strong Local Emergency Planning Committees: From Compliance to Community (Broadlands B)</b>  <b>Justin Anderson, HazMat Branch Manager – TEMA</b></p>
	<p><b>Recovery After the Response: Caring for the Caregivers (Mirabella A)</b>  <b>Jessica Crosby, Outreach Director – State of Tennessee Benefits Administration</b></p>
	<p><b>EMAC MRP Basics and Pre-Deployment Considerations (Mirabella B)</b>  <b>Patrick DeAngelo, Logistics/EMAC Coordinating Specialist – TEMA</b></p>
	<p><b>TEMA Learning Management System (Mirabella C)</b>  <b>TEMA Training Staff</b></p>
	<p><b>ReadyOp 101/Updates (Mirabella D)</b>  <b>Marc Moore, CEO – ReadyOp</b></p>
2:45 pm	<b>Industry Partner Break (Mirabella F-J)</b>

3:30 pm	Breakout Sessions/Training
	<b>Controlling the Narrative in an AI World: How to Fight Misinformation (Oakleigh A)</b> <b>Chance Craven, Chief Brand Officer – Safe Industries</b>
	<b>Enabling Better Decision Making (Oakleigh B)</b> <b>Kate Guillet, Warning Coordination Meteorologist – NWS Huntsville</b>
	<b>A Bird’s Eye View: Supporting Response with NASA’s Open Satellite Data (Oakleigh C)</b> <b>Joshua Barnes, Manager, Disaster Response Coordination System – NASA</b>
	<b>Understanding the Importance of Process When Implementing NIMS (Cambridge A)</b> <b>Martin Senterfitt, President, NIMS Logic</b>
	<b>Understanding Hazard Mitigation (Cambridge B)</b> <b>Brent Phillips, District Coordinator – TEMA</b>
	<b>The Appalachian Way: Visionary Leadership, Trusted Messengers, Building Recovery (Broadlands A)</b> <b>Kat Latham, Regional Director of Disaster Recovery – United Way of East TN Highlands</b> <b>Leslie Dalton, President &amp; CEO – United Way of East TN Highlands</b>
	<b>Building Strong Local Emergency Planning Committees: From Compliance to Community (Broadlands B)</b> <b>Justin Anderson, HazMat Branch Manager – TEMA</b>
	<b>Recovery After the Response: Caring for the Caregivers (Mirabella A)</b> <b>Jessica Crosby, Outreach Director – State of Tennessee Benefits Administration</b>
	<b>EMAC MRP Basics and Pre-Deployment Considerations (Mirabella B)</b> <b>Patrick DeAngelo, Logistics/EMAC Coordinating Specialist – TEMA</b>
	<b>TEMA Learning Management System (Mirabella C)</b> <b>TEMA Training Staff</b>
	<b>ReadyOp 101/Updates (Mirabella D)</b> <b>Marc Moore, CEO – ReadyOp</b>
4:15 pm	<b>Exercise Introduction (Mirabella E)</b> <b>Doug Jackson, President Centurion Solutions</b> <b>Dave Nock</b> <b>Door Prize Drawings</b>

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## Thursday, April 30, 2026

- 6:00 am Breakfast Buffet Opens (Embassy Suites Atrium)
- 7:30 am Registration Opens **Presented by ReadyOp** (Conference Center Atrium)
- 8:30 am Tabletop Exercise (Mirabella E)  
**Presented by Centurion Solutions**
- 12:00 pm Conference Close

## Future EMAT Conferences

April 27-29, 2027 – Murfreesboro (Embassy Suites)

May 2-4, 2028 – Murfreesboro (Embassy Suites)

Please sure to use **#EMAT2026** in all photos and social media posts!

Professional headshots will be available throughout the conference in the  
**Wyntrope Boardroom**

*Special thanks to our silver partners for providing beverage service throughout this year's conference*

