

The Missouri Disaster Recovery Framework Team Presents the

5th ANNUAL DISASTER RESILIENCY SUMMIT

Date: October 7, 2025

Location: Wyndham Executive Center

2200 Interstate 70 DR SW, Columbia, MO 65203

Time: 9:00am to 4:00pm





Welcome to the 5th Annual Disaster Resiliency Summit hosted by the Missouri Disaster Recovery Framework!

October 7, 2025

Wyndham Executive Center

2200 Interstate 70 DR SW, Columbia, MO 65203

Agenda:

9:00am– 9:10am

Welcome

Amanda Wilbers, State Disaster Recovery Coordinator
Missouri State Emergency Management Agency

Room: Windsor Ballroom

9:10am– 9:40am

General Session #1— Rising Together: Building Resilient Responders and Communities

Debi Meeds, Volunteer Partner– Senior Director, Long-Term
Recovery

American Red Cross

Room: Windsor Ballroom

9:40am–9:45am

Break

9:45am– 10:45am

General Session #2— Family Reunification After Catastrophic Natural Disasters

Andrea Spillars, Former FEMA Region 7 Regional
Administrator

Room: Windsor Ballroom

10:45am–11:00am

Break



Agenda continued:

11:00am– 11:45am

Breakout Session #1

Option 1: “Missouri’s Radiological Response to a Nuclear Power Plant Release”

Jeremy Wilson, Radiological/ Chemical Emergency
Response Program Manager

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

Room: Parliament I

Option 2: “Children with Medical Complexity During and After a Disaster”

Nick Salzman, STARS Program Liaison
SSM Cardinal Glennon Children’s Hospital

Room: Parliament II

Option 3: “Missouri Housing Development Commission Community Programs Grant Opportunities”

Cassie Johnson, Director of Community Programs
Missouri Housing Development Commission

Room: Parliament III

11:45am–12:45pm

Lunch (meal is provided)



Agenda continued:

12:45pm– 1:45pm

General Session #3— Building Nocturnal Weather Hazard Resilience

Dr. Jennifer First, Assistant Professor– College of Health Sciences

University of Missouri, Columbia

Room: Windsor Ballroom

1:45pm– 2:00pm

Break

2:00pm– 2:45pm

Breakout Session #2

Option 1: “Severe Fungal Infections Following Tornadoes and Other Natural Disasters”

John Bos, Chief– Bureau of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

Room: Parliament I

Option 2: “How Targeted Violence Prevention Intersects with Disaster Response”

Glen Moore, Director of Threat Management

Missouri School Board Association’s Center for Education Safety

Room: Parliament II



Agenda continued:

2:00pm– 2:45pm **Breakout Session #2 continued**

Option 3: “Building Stronger Preparedness through Local Leadership Collaboration”

Chris Kelley, Director
Boone County Office of Emergency Management
Room: Parliament III

2:45pm—3:00pm **Break**

3:00pm—4:00pm **General Session #4: Wildfires in the Midwest—NWS Fire Weather Services for Partners**

Matthew Beitscher, Lead Meteorologist
NOAA/ National Weather Service— St. Louis, MO
Room: Windsor Ballroom

Disaster Resiliency Summit Program

9:00am– 9:10am **Welcome**

Amanda Wilbers, State Disaster Recovery Coordinator
Missouri State Emergency Management Agency
Room: Windsor Ballroom



Amanda Wilbers currently serves as the State Disaster Recovery Coordinator for the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency. Amanda has been with the Department of Public Safety since 2018. Her most recent position prior to stepping into her current role was serving as the Operational Excellence Coordinator in the DPS Office of the Director. Amanda is a graduate from Missouri State University in Springfield, MO with a Bachelors degree in Social Work. She worked for the MO Department of Social Services for six years prior to coming to the Department of Public Safety.

9:10am– 9:40am **General Session #1—Rising Together: Building Resilient Responders and Communities**

Debi Meeds, Volunteer Partner– Senior Director, Long-Term Recovery
American Red Cross
Room: Windsor Ballroom



Title: Rising Together– Building Resilient Responders and Communities

Bio: Debi Meeds became a Red Cross volunteer as a Jr. High student in 1964 and has been serving communities ever since. She worked for the Red Cross for over 24 years, serving the last 10 years as the Regional CEO for the Southern Missouri Region based in Springfield, MO. After retiring from the Red Cross in 2014, she served as the President/ CEO of the United Way of the Ozarks until retiring in 2019 and returning to her volunteer work with the Red Cross. She has deployed to disasters from Washington State to New York, including helping lead the response and recovery to the Joplin tornado in 2011. Currently, Debi serves as the Chair of the Greene County COAD, Chair of the Missouri Governor's Faith-Based and Community Service Partnership for Disaster Recovery, is on the Executive Committee of the Missouri VOAD, chairing the Joint COAD/LTR committee. Her passion is supporting responders and helping communities prepare before a disaster strikes by forming strong, planning collaboratives like COADs. Debi has a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Liberty University, Nursing Diploma (LVN) from Harris Hospital School of Nursing, and a mini-MBA from Missouri State University.



9:45am– 10:45am

General Session #2— Family Reunification After Catastrophic Natural Disasters

Andrea Spillars, Former FEMA Region 7 Regional Administrator

Room: Windsor Ballroom

Description: Andrea Spillars, former FEMA Region VII Administrator, will share approaches and lessons learned from leading the Reunification Taskforce in Ashville, North Carolina following the devastating impact from Hurricane Helene and leading the same effort after the Joplin Tornado in 2011.



Bio: Andrea Spillars has been a career public servant for over 36 years. She previously served as the Regional Administrator for FEMA Region 7, leading the regional response and recovery efforts in 26 declared major disasters during her tenure. As Region 7 administrator, Spillars oversaw the Kansas City based office of over 400 staff and a four-state region that covered Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. She also served leadership roles in Region 4 during Hurricane Helene, as the FEMA lead for both the Family Reunification Task Force and the Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Task Force. In Missouri, she previously served as the Deputy Director and General Counsel for Missouri Department of Public Safety (MDPS). During her time at the MDPS, Spillars had a lead role in the Missouri state response to natural disasters, including the devastating Joplin tornado in 2011, the prolonged flooding in 2011, drought relief efforts in 2012, and historic ice storms in 2009. Spillars has been recognized for her leadership and service following her disaster response efforts by the National Guard Association and the Joplin Police Department.

Spillars holds a Law Degree from University of Missouri – Kansas City School of Law and a Bachelor of Science in Sociology from Central Missouri State University.



11:00am—11:45am **Breakout Session #1**

Option 1: “Missouri’s Radiological Response to a Nuclear Power Plant Release”

Presenter: Jeremy Wilson, Radiological/ Chemical Emergency Response Program Manager
Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

Description: This presentation will cover the state’s resources and capabilities to respond to a nuclear power plant release including the emergency and ingestion phases. The presentation will also showcase field team capabilities, dose assessment, protective actions, environmental sampling, and the relocation/reentry protocols for the residents of the impacted area.

Room: Parliament I

Option 2: “Children with Medical Complexity During and After a Disaster”

Presenter: Nick Salzman, STARS Program Liaison
SSM Cardinal Glennon Children’s Hospital

Description: Through the lens of emergency and disaster preparedness, we will identify challenges for our Children with Medical Complexity (CMC) and their families. We will discuss real-life scenarios that have impacted families in our region. Finally we will explore topics of improved information sharing and preparedness through interconnectivity between hospitals, families, emergency providers, and disaster planners.

Room: Parliament II

Option 3: “Missouri Housing Development Commission Community Programs Grant Opportunities”

Presenter: Cassie Johnson, Director of Community Programs
Missouri Housing Development Commission

Description: The Missouri Housing Development Commission (MHDC) acts as the state’s housing finance agency. The Community Programs Division oversees grant and tax credit opportunities for nonprofits and community-based organizations active in housing. During this presentation, Cassie Johnson, Director of Community Programs, will give an overview of available programs and how to apply.

Room: Parliament III

12:45pm– 1:45pm **General Session #3 — Building Nocturnal Weather Hazard Resilience**

Dr. Jennifer First
Assistant Professor—College of Health Sciences
University of Missouri, Columbia
Room: Windsor Ballroom



Description: On March 14–15, 2025, a historic outbreak of nocturnal tornadoes swept across the Midwest, causing catastrophic damage and 42 fatalities, with Missouri counties among the hardest hit. Nocturnal hazards such as tornadoes and flash floods are especially dangerous because they often evolve rapidly with limited warning time and occur when most households and their social networks are asleep, making both warning dissemination and protective response more difficult. This presentation will share insights from Dr. First’s prior nocturnal hazard research to highlight barriers the public faces in receiving and acting on nighttime warnings, alongside perspectives from interviews with emergency managers and National Weather Service forecasters into operational and organizational challenges during overnight hazard events. The session will conclude with findings from a case study of the March 14-15 nocturnal tornado outbreak, integrating social, behavioral, and sheltering vulnerability factors to identify strategies for reducing risk and strengthening resilience to future nocturnal weather threats.

Bio: Dr. Jennifer First is an Assistant Professor in the College of Health Sciences at the University of Missouri, Columbia. Her research focuses on examining and addressing the societal impacts of severe weather and disaster events (e.g., risk communication and behavioral processes, hazard mitigation, implementing resources to foster adaptive coping and well-being). Her program of research is transdisciplinary, integrating interdisciplinary scientific approaches together with meaningful community engagement to better inform disaster resilience strategies.



2:00pm — 2:45pm **Breakout Session #2**

Option 1: “Severe Fungal Infections Following Tornadoes and Other Natural Disasters”

Presenter: John Bos, Chief– Bureau of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention
Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

Description: Natural disasters and the subsequent emergency response can result in exposures to a myriad of possible biologic, chemical, and physical threats. The number of species of fungi found in the environment are estimated to be in the millions, including a few hundred that are known to cause illness. This presentation will include an overview of the types of fungal diseases and the epidemiology of severe, cutaneous mucormycosis infections reported following the tornado in Joplin, in 2011.

Room: Parliament I

Option 2: “How Targeted Violence Prevention Intersects with Disaster Response”

Presenter: Glen Moore, Director of Threat Management
Missouri School Board Association’s Center for Education Safety

Description: A key component of targeted violence prevention is behavioral threat assessment. Behavioral threat assessment involves using a multidisciplinary team to assess and manage threats of targeted violence. Increasingly, such teams strive to identify systemic factors which might reduce these trends. Research has shown increases in threats and violence when stressful events or circumstances occur. The knowledge and ability to respond to increases in threats of violence and suicide can better serve postvention efforts. Contrasting examples of response efforts from school mass shootings will be provided to illustrate how collaboration can lead to community healing in unexpected ways.

Room: Parliament II

Option 3: “Building Stronger Preparedness through Local Leadership Collaboration”

Presenter: Chris Kelley, Director
Boone County Office of Emergency Management

Room: Parliament III

3:00pm—4:00pm

General Session #4 — Wildfires in the Midwest—NWS Fire Weather Services for Partners

Matthew Beitscher, Lead Meteorologist

NOAA/ National Weather Service— St. Louis, MO

Room: Windsor Ballroom

Description: Wildland fire has a rich history in our part of the country, both controlled and uncontrolled. With weather conditions becoming more extreme for wildland fire danger in recent years, fire activity is increasing in Missouri. This uptick requires more accurate forecasts, a deeper understanding of the wildland fire environment, and a closer NWS/public safety partnership than ever before. This presentation will give an overview of the wildland fire environment in Missouri, discuss weather patterns that typically lead to wildland fire, and services the NWS provides free of charge to aid in public safety efforts.



Bio: Matt is a lead meteorologist at the National Weather Service office in St. Louis, MO. He leads the local fire weather program, which establishes policy, training, and forecast/services practices for the 46 counties in Missouri and Illinois that the office serves. Before his 6 years in the NWS, he earned his Master's degree in Meteorology from Saint Louis University, where he studied fire weather patterns in the southern Great Plains. He continues that research to this day, all while building fire weather expertise within his office and better land management relationships with the core partners his office serves.

Link to Register: <https://sema.dps.mo.gov/events/conference.php>