

Submission Type

Special Session

Presenter Name

Bryan Falk

Presenter Email

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Presenter Organization

National Invasive Species Council

Presenter Title

Senior Management and Program Analyst

Presenter Bio

Bryan Falk serves as the Senior Management and Program Analyst for the National Invasive Species Council. In this role, he works across Federal departments and White House offices to accomplish the Council's priorities. He has experience in research and land management and holds a Ph.D. in Comparative Biology from the American Museum of Natural History.

Abstract Title

How to engage your state emergency management agency to reduce invasion risks in disasters

Abstract Summary

Natural hazards like hurricanes and floods can introduce and spread invasive species – as can disaster response and recovery operations – and in the United States, the costs of damage from invasive species are rising faster than the costs of all other natural hazards combined. Invasive species experts can work with emergency managers to preemptively identify invasion risks in a disaster and develop protocols to reduce them. This session is meant to equip invasive species experts with the information necessary to engage their state, territorial, or tribal emergency management agency to raise awareness of invasion risks during disaster response and recovery, build bridges between the emergency management and invasive species expert communities, and ultimately reduce invasion risks in disasters.

Conference Themes

- **Policy**

TAXA

- **Freshwater AIS**
- **Terrestrial Plants**
- **Terrestrial Animals**
- **Pests & Pathogens**
- **Marine**

Title: How to engage your state emergency management agency to reduce invasion risks in disasters

Abstract: Natural hazards like hurricanes and floods can introduce and spread invasive species – as can disaster response and recovery operations – and in the United States, the costs of damage from invasive species are rising faster than the costs of all other natural hazards combined. Invasive species experts can work with emergency managers to preemptively identify invasion risks in a disaster and develop protocols to reduce them. This session is meant to equip invasive species experts with the information necessary to engage their state, territorial, or tribal emergency management agency to raise awareness of invasion risks during disaster response and recovery, build bridges between the emergency management and invasive species expert communities, and ultimately reduce invasion risks in disasters.

Agenda: The session will equip participants with:

- Justifications for including invasive species considerations in disaster response and recovery planning efforts.
- Knowledge of emergency management structures, systems, and terms.
- Information for identifying critical collaborators (e.g., the lead state agency for invasive species in a disaster) and the appropriate points of contact at state, territorial, or tribal emergency management agencies.
- A set of best practices for reducing invasion risks in a disaster, which can be incorporated into planning documents, contracts, etc., as well as guidelines for developing additional protocols.

Format: Presentation/panel hybrid.

Duration: One hour.

Potential Contributors:

- Heather Kerker (Assistant Regional Administrator, Pacific Islands Climate Adaptation Science Center, U.S. Geologic Survey, Department of the Interior)
- Michele Kerns (Emergency Management Specialist, Indian Health Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services)
- Brent Ruggles (Incident Management Program Manager, Office of Emergency Management, Department of the Interior)
- Todd Smith (Region 9 Emergency Support Function [ESF] #11 Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture)
- Seth Tinkham (National Coordinator for ESF #11, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance, Department of the Interior)

- Jennifer Wellock (National Coordinator for Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Support Function, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance, Department of the Interior)

Anticipated Audience Size: Unknown.