

Liam R. Bassford

SUMMARY

Emergency management professional with broad experience in Incident Command System (ICS), incident support, and watch center operations. Dedicated to maintaining partnerships and leveraging personnel from diverse backgrounds to translate complex information into actionable intelligence, in support of optimizing decision-making throughout the preparedness, response, and recovery phases.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Watch Analyst

April 2024-Present

FEMA National Watch Center (NWC), full-time

Washington, DC

- Serve on a Watch Team working in rotating 12-hour shifts to maintain 24/7/365 situational awareness of FEMA readiness, capabilities, and all events which may require a coordinated federal response
- Lead the Watch Team in the absence of the Senior Watch Officer, including day-to-day supervision of up to 3 Analysts, communication with agency leadership, and responsibility for all products published
- Collect and analyze all-hazards incident information from all available sources, including FEMA Regional Watch Centers, other Federal agencies, live data repositories, and open sources
- Disseminate information about incidents and agency status from in a variety of daily and ad-hoc products, including written reports, graphics, maps, email, and telephonic communication, to audiences of up to 50,000 subscribers including government partners and the general public
- Maintain National Watch Center contact lists to facilitate internal and external communication
- Ensure compliance with agency policies regarding classified facilities and sensitive information
- Conduct daily shift change briefing at the end of each shift to ensure operational continuity
- Train assigned Watch Analysts on topics relevant to NWC operations, including policies, procedures, resources, and factors relevant to specific hazards such as wildfires, floods, severe weather, and hurricanes
- Recipient of an Associate Administrator's Core Values Award in February 2025, for adjusting scheduling plans on short notice to accommodate teammates' needs

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Specialist

August 2021-April 2024

FEMA Region 8 Operational Planning Branch, full-time

Lakewood, CO

- Produced static and dynamic geospatial products, data dashboards, and apps using ArcGIS and Power BI software, regarding active and future hazards affecting FEMA Region 8
- Tracked and fulfilled requests for information (RFIs) and map requests from stakeholders
- Developed scenario materials and participated in the Simulation Cell or Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) for monthly Region 8 Response Division exercises
- Deployed to disaster response and recovery efforts in various GIS and Planning incident management roles as required
- Co-recipient of a 2023 Regional Administrator's Award for Innovation, for developing an automated infographic to provide detailed information on Region 8 assets and readiness with minimal labor required

Situation Unit Leader

August 2018-August 2021

FEMA Region 8 Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT), full-time

Lakewood, CO

- Collected, analyzed, and disseminated situational information to stakeholders using the information management process, to support decision-making and ensure responder safety during disasters
- Served as a subject matter expert to internal and external stakeholders on all-hazards situational awareness during steady state and all phases of disaster response and recovery
- Produced steady-state analysis reports to provide context regarding emerging and long-range threats

- Co-chaired Situation Unit Leader Working Group (from February 2020 to February 2021) to share updates in doctrine, tools for situational awareness, and best practices among SITLs nationwide
- Drafted educational and reference materials, including a book of training scenarios and portions of the Situation Unit Leader Annex to the Planning Field Operations Guide, to develop personnel
- Recipient of a 2020 Regional Administrator's Newbie Award for contributions by a recently-hired employee, in recognition of innovative hazard monitoring and reporting during steady state

Planning Specialist (Reservist)

January 2017-August 2018

FEMA Planning Cadre, intermittent

Redding & Sacramento, CA; Houston, TX

- Deployed to disasters as a Planning Specialist (PLSP), or other positions as required
- Contributed to functional planning efforts, including Continuity of Operations (COOP) plans and program-based integrated strategic planning
- Facilitated planning meetings with Federal and State stakeholders
- Prepared meeting agendas, recorded meeting minutes, and tracked progress of strategic milestones
- Established and maintained information-sharing relationships with counterparts
- Provided verbal and written situation briefs to disaster leadership to support informed decision-making
- Supervised, trained, and mentored Planning Specialists as required

FEMA Corps Member and Team Leader

July 2015-April 2016

AmeriCorps, full-time

Baltimore, MD; Columbia, SC; Philadelphia, PA

- Provided education to students and homeowners regarding home fire prevention
- Maintained a tracking database for activity reports in support of Federal Disaster Recovery Coordination (FDRC) operations following the 2015 South Carolina floods
- Analyzed disaster and demographic data for future operational planning efforts in FEMA Region 3
- Dispatched Red Cross volunteers in response to requests from local responders and the general public
- Conducted individual and group meetings with Corps Members and project points of contact to make decisions by consensus, plan future work assignments, resolve conflicts, and address unmet needs
- Submitted regular progress reports including expenses, hours worked, and quantifiable achievements

SKILLS

- Formal and informal leadership
- Oral, written, and graphical communication
- Formal instruction and on-the-job training
- WebEOC
- ArcGIS (including online, Pro, ArcMap)
- Scripting for data and GIS analysis, including Python and R
- Microsoft Office suite, including Visio, SharePoint, Teams, and Power BI

EDUCATION

McGill University

September 2011-June 2015

- Bachelor of Arts, First Class Honours in Linguistics, Minor in Hispanic Languages, 3.8 GPA