



GOVERNOR'S
HURRICANE CONFERENCE®

Insane Networks:

The Secret Sauce of Your Emergency
Management Career

Moderator

Dan Curcio

Senior Consultant I

AC Disaster Consulting



Sandra Tapfumaneyi, FPEM, CPM

Chief of Sarasota County Emergency Management



Sandra Tapfumaneyi has served as Sarasota County's Chief of Emergency Management since January 2024, leading the County's Emergency Operations Center through the historic 2024 hurricane season, including Hurricane Milton's landfall. She previously served as Chief of Lee County Emergency Management where she served as Incident Commander during Hurricane Ian's landfall in 2022, one of the most catastrophic hurricanes to hit the United States. Her leadership during Ian earned her the 2023 Chad Reed Emergency Management Professional of the Year Award and the Governor's Hurricane Conference Bob Lay Award. She also serves as Chairwoman of the National Hurricane Conference.

With more than 26 years of experience, Sandra has held roles including Director of Lee County Domestic Animal Services, emergency management consultant for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, AmeriCorps volunteer teacher in inner-city St. Petersburg, and human rights intern for President Jimmy Carter at the Atlanta-based Carter Center.

Doug Roberts

Deputy Director of Recovery, AC Disaster Consulting



Doug Roberts is the Deputy Director of Recovery at AC Disaster Consulting and a former State Disaster Recovery Coordinator and Deputy Bureau Chief of Disaster Recovery for the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM). A Florida native and graduate of Florida State University, Doug has more than 12 years of experience supporting large-scale disaster response, recovery, housing, and resilience initiatives. His experience includes leadership roles supporting Hurricane Ian, Hurricane Idalia, the Surfside Building Collapse, and the COVID-19 pandemic, including oversight of Florida's first state-led temporary housing program utilizing non-congregate sheltering.

At AC Disaster Consulting, Doug supports complex recovery and resilience initiatives through program coordination, operational leadership, and stakeholder engagement, including leadership roles on Florida's Elevate Florida residential mitigation program. He specializes in building collaborative partnerships and helping communities and agencies navigate complex recovery and resilience challenges.

Robbie Berg

Warning Coordination Meteorologist, National Hurricane Center



Robbie Berg is the Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami, Florida, where he supports hurricane forecast operations, emergency management coordination, outreach, and risk communication efforts. With more than two decades of experience in tropical meteorology and hurricane forecasting, Robbie has played key roles in forecasting and communicating impacts for major tropical cyclones affecting the United States and Caribbean.

Robbie earned dual bachelor's degrees in Meteorology and Marine Science from North Carolina State University and completed graduate studies at the University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, later earning a Master of Arts in Communication from Johns Hopkins University. In addition to his forecasting work, Robbie is nationally recognized for his leadership in hurricane communication, storm surge outreach, and integrating social science into weather forecasting to improve public understanding and preparedness.



Icebreaker! Putting It In Practice

Turn to someone you don't know
and introduce yourself:



Your name



Your role



**One thing you want to learn,
build, or grow in your career**

Question One



Looking back, what relationships ended up shaping your career the most?

Question Two



What does “good networking” actually look like in emergency management?

Question Three



**For people early in their careers,
what are the best ways to start
building a strong network?**

Question Four



We're at a conference right now – how can people make the most of spaces like this?

Question Five



How have online platforms and virtual connections changed networking in this field?

Question Six



Emergency management is a small world, and reputation travels fast. What builds a strong professional reputation?

Question Seven



Can you share an example where your network directly created an opportunity, solved a problem, or strengthened a response or recovery effort?

Question Eight



If someone here wants to build an “insane network” over the next few years, what’s one thing they should start doing immediately?



Questions?

Thank You!