



FEMA

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[Montana DES Announces Keynote Speaker and Topics for Montana Recovery Resources Symposium](#)

Helena, Mont. – Montana Disaster and Emergency Services (MT DES), supported by FEMA, will host a Recovery Resource Symposium at Fort Harrison on January 25, 2023. The Symposium will focus on a whole community approach to long-term disaster recovery, including creating bridges between resources and unmet needs that may exist during long-term recovery.

The keynote speaker for the event, Ashley Edwards, is a leading voice on long-term disaster recovery in the United States. Prior to cofounding R3 LLC, Mr. Edwards was responsible for all aspects of implementing the State of Mississippi's Hurricane Katrina recovery plan. He oversaw managing and coordinating more than \$20 billion in federal funding and created first-of-their-kind programs widely recognized as disaster recovery best practices.

Additionally, Lieutenant Governor, Kristen Juras, and Montana National Guard's Adjutant General, Major General J. Peter Hronek will also provide opening remarks.

Symposium presenters include Montana state emergency management experts, state higher education representatives, federal disaster recovery staff, local community representatives, and philanthropic organizations who will cover a wide range of community focused recovery topics including infrastructure, economic and community development, housing, agriculture and environmental impacts, and recovery resources.

In addition, presenters will discuss current unmet needs from the June 2022 flooding disaster to support ongoing recovery and to assist in planning for future long-term recovery needs.

Networking and Building Relationships

One of the key endeavors of the Montana Recovery Resources Symposium will be to facilitate networking, establishing partnerships, and pairing community needs with recovery resources, as well as, building resiliency before the next disaster.

The event is open to the public. Emergency managers, community and volunteer representatives, and anyone interested in networking to build a more resilient Montana are strongly encouraged to attend.

Registrations for in person attendance at the Montana Recovery Resources Symposium will close on Friday, January 13th. Registrations for virtual attendance will remain open until the day of the event, January 25th. Register online to attend at <http://bit.ly/3FshCys>.

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