



The 2026 National Disaster Resilience Conference (NDRC26) agenda is designed to advance the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH) partnership's goal of delivering the ultimate American "DREAM" home, one that is durable, resilient, energy-efficient, affordable, and modern.

The agenda will feature breakout sessions, keynote presentations, panels, and spotlight interviews showcasing best practices in construction innovation, public policy, and private market programs from expert presenters spanning academia, elected officials, financial services, home builders, leaders, professionals, public officials, researchers, scientists, and other stakeholders committed to disaster resilience.

This Antitrust Statement is to inform meeting participants that whenever competitors within an industry gather together, appropriate care must be taken to ensure that violations of antitrust laws do not take place. To avoid antitrust allegations, it is necessary to avoid discussions of sensitive topics. Agreements to engage in product boycotts, restrictive market allocations, refusal to deal with third parties, and price-restraining activities are automatically illegal under antitrust laws.

Tuesday, November 17, 2026	
11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	FLASH Board of Directors Luncheon & Meeting (Directors & Advisors) <i>Location: Pelican Meeting Room, Third Floor</i>
5:00 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.	FLASH Board of Directors-Hosted VIP & Speaker Reception <i>(Invitation Only)</i>
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Registration Open <i>Location: Dunes Foyer, Lobby Level</i>
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Welcome Reception Hosted by the FLASH Board of Directors (Open to All Registered Attendees) Kick off NDRC26 with a warm welcome from FLASH and the Board of Directors. Enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres, food stations, and refreshments as we gather to celebrate the start of this year's conference and look ahead to the conversations, ideas, and insights to come. <i>Location: Dunes Ballroom, Lobby Level</i>

Wednesday, November 18, 2026	
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast <i>Location: Dunes Ballroom, Lobby Level</i>
7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Registration & Exhibits Open <i>Location: Dunes Foyer & Dunes Ballroom, Lobby Level</i>

8:30 a.m.	Welcome Remarks & General Session Introduction Arthur Parks, CPCU, CLU, State Farm Insurance Companies Director, Catastrophe Exposure Management – Underwriting Solutions and Chair, FLASH Board of Directors
Keynote Presentation: <i>Delivering the D.R.E.A.M.</i> This opening keynote will launch NDRC26 by exploring how resilience is moving from aspiration and inspiration to action that delivers the ideal D.R.E.A.M. Home - Durable. Resilient. Energy-efficient. Affordable. and Modern. After decades of dedicated engineering, risk communication, and policy research and progress, we have the knowledge, the science, and the will. But is resilience consistently making it all the way to the place where it matters most—the family home? Attendees will be challenged to think boldly about what is possible, examine the opportunities and barriers shaping the future, and consider how each sector can contribute to delivering reliable resilience outcomes. This keynote will establish the vision and momentum for the conference and inspire participants to help discover and advance the practical path to resilience. Presenter: Leslie Chapman-Henderson, FLASH President and CEO	
Spotlight Presentation: <i>The Power of Resilience: Deconstructing the Affordability Myth</i> This session will explore a new landmark study from the University of Alabama about the relationship between building code adoption and housing prices. Researchers will describe their findings, based on data from more than 2.7 million home sales and 45 code updates across 26 states. The session will answer the question, "Do stronger building codes make homes less affordable?" At a time when housing affordability is one of the nation's most pressing concerns, this session is a must-see for resilience and building code advocates alike. Presenters: 1. Dr. Lawrence (Lars) Powell, Alabama Center for Insurance Information and Research Director 2. Dr. Patrick (Shane) Crawford, University of Alabama, Lee J. Styslinger Jr. College of Engineering, Assistant Professor <i>Interviewer: John Zarrella, JZ Media President & Former CNN Correspondent</i>	

Spotlight Presentation & Interview: *Moving Past FEMA Flood Maps: Enhancing Public Understanding Through Improved Risk Communication Strategies*

Flood maps remain among the most widely used tools for communicating flood risk, yet research shows that many homeowners struggle to understand and act on the information they provide. In this session, the presenter will share findings from focus groups and a multi-state survey of more than 1,200 participants examining how consumers perceive flood risk, where they seek information, and which communication approaches are most effective in motivating preparedness.

This session will allow attendees to explore common misconceptions about flood insurance and disaster assistance, barriers to protective action, and emerging strategies that emphasize clearer, localized, and more actionable messaging delivered through trusted sources. Additionally, the presentation will highlight how [Inspect2Protect.org](https://inspect2protect.org) and other consumer-facing resources resonated with survey participants regarding competence and confidence.

Presenters:

1. **Dr. Brenda Rourke**, National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC)/Center for Insurance Policy and Research (CIPR) Communication Research Scientist & Engagement Program Manager
2. **Paula Harms, CPCU**, National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC)/Center for Insurance Policy and Research (CIPR) Sr. Research Analyst

Panel Presentation: *Strong Homes Initiative: The Power of Resilient Recovery*

Disaster recovery is more than just rebuilding—it is an opportunity to reduce future vulnerability for survivors and their communities by introducing disaster-resilient building practices, leaving a legacy of better building overall.

The [FLASH Strong Homes](https://flashstronghomes.org) program manifests this opportunity through robust partnerships, best practices, and innovative outreach and education initiatives. Attendees will hear how cross-sector partnerships not only support smart, resilient recovery but deliver lasting, systemic, and positive changes in the building practices of disaster-affected communities.

Presenters: TBA

Break

Spotlight Interview: *The Power of Partnership – Building and Selling Resilient Homes*

What do today's homebuyers want—and how are builders and real estate professionals responding? This engaging conversation explores how resilient construction, informed consumer choices, and trusted industry partnerships are changing the way homes are built, marketed, and valued. From buyer expectations and construction decisions to the long-term benefits of stronger homes, discover how resilience is becoming an increasingly important part of the homeownership journey.

Presenters:

1. **Jason Meadows**, White Oak Construction LLC Vice President
2. **Andrea Meadows**, Hill, Spooner & Elliott, Inc. Realtor

Interviewer: **Dr. Rick Knabb**, *The Weather Channel's* Tropical Program Manager and former National Hurricane Center Director

Spotlight Presentation: *The Power of Science: Severe Convective Storms*

Severe convective storms continue to drive billions of dollars in losses each year while challenging communities across the country. Our returning presenter, an NDRC attendee favorite, will highlight emerging research and engineering insights that are improving our understanding of these hazards and informing practical strategies to reduce damage, strengthen buildings, and increase resilience.

Presenter: Dr. Anne Cope, P.E., Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS) Chief Engineer

Keynote Presentation: *Building Resilience Before and After Disasters*

Director Guthrie will explore Florida's evolving approach to disaster resilience and share lessons that are shaping preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery efforts nationwide. Drawing on his leadership and experience managing complex disasters, he will highlight innovative strategies, cross-sector partnerships, and practical actions that are helping strengthen communities, reduce risk, and accelerate recovery. This keynote will examine how resilience is being delivered through policy, coordination, and implementation—and what leaders across sectors can apply to better prepare for future disasters.

Presenter: Kevin Guthrie, Florida Division of Emergency Management Executive Director

Celebrating Partners in Prevention: *Luncheon & Recognition Ceremony Hosted by the FLASH Board of Directors*

The NDRC26 luncheon program will celebrate the partnerships, leadership, and innovation helping deliver the D.R.E.A.M.—advancing practical solutions that create stronger, safer, and more resilient communities. This special gathering will provide attendees with an opportunity to connect, reflect on shared progress, and recognize the collaboration that drives meaningful resilience outcomes nationwide. The program will also include a recognition ceremony honoring the invaluable contributions of new and longstanding FLASH Partners whose commitment continues to strengthen communities and advance resilience before and after disasters.

Hosted by: Arthur Parks, CPCU, CLU, State Farm Insurance Companies Director, Catastrophe Exposure Management – Underwriting Solutions and Chair, FLASH Board of Directors, and **Bryan Koon**, IEM President and CEO, Member, FLASH Board of Directors

Keynote Presentation: Kevin & Sarabeth Harrison*, Tornado Survivors**Spotlight Presentation: *Advancing Earthquake Resilience Through Innovation, Collaboration, and Public Engagement***

Join Dr. Ahmed Elbanna, Director of the Statewide California Earthquake Center (SCEC), for a forward-looking discussion on the future of earthquake resilience and the importance of multidisciplinary collaboration in reducing disaster risk. Drawing on SCEC's leadership in research, science, engineering, policy, and public engagement, Dr. Elbanna will share his vision for advancing resilience through innovation, partnerships, and practical solutions that strengthen communities before disasters occur.

Presenter: Dr. Ahmed Elbanna, Statewide California Earthquake Center (SCEC) Director

Spotlight Presentation: *The Power of Big Ideas – A Brain Stretch*

Innovation begins by asking better questions. This thought-provoking session will challenge conventional thinking and encourage attendees to explore emerging ideas, future trends, and bold opportunities that could reshape disaster resilience and home construction. Prepare to stretch your thinking, challenge assumptions, and leave inspired to see resilience through a new lens.

Presenter: Dr. Forrest J. Masters, P.E., Oregon State University, College of Engineering, Connie and Lee Kearney Dean, and Member, FLASH Board of Directors

Break

Panel Presentation: *The Power of Prevention: Building Wildfire Resilience Through Codes, Collaboration, and Action*

Wildfire resilience requires more than awareness—it demands a coordinated, all-hands approach that combines education, preparedness, building codes, mitigation, and implementation. While modern building codes provide the foundation for reducing future wildfire risk, making millions of homes more wildfire-resilient will take more than codes alone. It requires multiple solutions, cross-sector collaboration, and complementary initiatives such as Wildfire Prepared Home and [WildfireStrong](#) that help homeowners and communities take meaningful action.

Bringing together leaders in wildfire mitigation, code advancement, fire service leadership, insurance, and public outreach, this panel will explore practical strategies, partnerships, and proven programs to accelerate wildfire resilience and move communities from awareness to action—helping protect homes, businesses, and neighborhoods.

Moderator: Eric Nelson, Travelers Senior Vice President of Enterprise Catastrophe Risk Management and Member, FLASH Board of Directors

Panelists:

1. **Justice Jones**, International Code Council Senior Fire and Disaster Mitigation Program Manager
2. **Audrey K. Rierson, Esq.**, FLASH Senior Policy Analyst
3. **Alister Watt**, IBHS Chief Product Officer

Spotlight Interview: *Unlocking Resilience for Homeowners*

Building stronger homes requires more than awareness—it requires access. This session will explore how innovative financing approaches can help remove barriers to resilience by making mitigation and home improvement investments more attainable for homeowners. Attendees will learn how financing solutions can support upgrades that reduce disaster risk, strengthen long-term property performance, and help advance homes that are durable, resilient, energy-efficient, affordable, and modern. Join the discussion on how new models and partnerships are helping deliver the D.R.E.A.M. through practical, scalable solutions that empower homeowners to invest in resilience.

Presenter: Matthew Choy, Renew Financial Government Affairs, Regional Director and Member, FLASH Board of Directors

Interviewer: John Zarrella, JZ Media President & Former CNN Correspondent

Panel Presentation: *The Power of Garage Doors: How much power can one resilience product deliver?*

Wind-rated garage doors may be the most overlooked opportunity to boost resilience. However, compelling analysis from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and others, along with the coalition cited in the new FLASH [*Garage Doors on the Rise*](#) commentary paper, is raising awareness of this powerful solution beyond the coasts and into the Midwest.

This session will explore the emerging dual-objective tornado-based design philosophy, advances in garage door technology, and the research insights demonstrating how stronger garage doors can reduce damage, protect homeowners, reduce losses, and improve insurability. Join leaders in science, industry, and resilience to learn how this evolving approach is driving innovation and influencing the future of resilient construction.

Moderator: Leslie Chapman-Henderson, FLASH President and CEO

Presenters:

1. **Dr. Marc Levitan**, NIST Lead Research Engineer, National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program
2. **David L. Monsour**, PE, Door & Access Systems Manufacturers Association (DASMA) Technical Director
3. **Kent Nafziger**, Haas Door Vice President and Member, FLASH Board of Directors

Wrap & Reflect

Arthur Parks, CPCU, CLU, State Farm Insurance Companies Director, Catastrophe Exposure Management – Underwriting Solutions, and Chair, FLASH Board of Directors

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Networking Dinner Event <i>Location: Dunes Ballroom, Lobby Level</i> Join your fellow attendees for the event most often cited by NDRC attendees as a conference favorite, where you can reconnect with longtime colleagues, make new connections, and enjoy an evening of conversation and networking.
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Thursday, November 19, 2026

We encourage attendees to wear their conference shirts and take part in the official group photo that everyone will be talking about!

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Exhibits Open <i>Location: Dunes Ballroom, Lobby Level</i>
8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast <i>Location: Foyer, Third Floor</i>

Concurrent Breakout Sessions

This morning's breakout sessions will enable attendees to gain additional expert knowledge through interactive, robust dialogue. The breakouts are designed to inspire fresh thinking and bold action, encouraging all participants to consider how they can play a pivotal role in advancing resilience.

Breakout Session #1 – *The Power of Partnership: Advancing Building Codes Through Collaboration*

Building codes are one of the most powerful tools available to reduce disaster risk—but advancing them requires evidence, engagement, and action. This panel will examine how analysis and research can strengthen the case for modern codes, how awareness campaigns can elevate understanding and support, and how advocacy can drive meaningful change at the local, state, and national levels. Join leaders from across the resilience ecosystem as they share strategies to move from information to implementation and accelerate stronger, safer communities.

Facilitator: Leslie Chapman-Henderson, FLASH President and CEO

Subject Matter Experts:

1. **Natalie Enclade, Ph.D.**, BuildStrong America Executive Director
2. **Milad Shabanian, Ph.D.**, MS Built Environment Solutions LLC President
3. **T. Eric Stafford, P.E.**, T. Eric Stafford & Associates President
4. **Dominic Sims**, Jupiter Advisory Group, LLC President and Member, FLASH Board of Directors

Location: Sandpiper Meeting Room, Third Floor

Breakout Session #2 – *The Power of Building Science*

What does the science tell us—and how do we turn it into action? This breakout session will explore the technical foundations that drive resilience, including building performance, emerging research, code advancements, implementation strategies, and evolving standards, such as those of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Through a facilitated discussion, subject matter experts will focus on translating data and building science into practical solutions that improve construction practices, strengthen outcomes, and accelerate resilience across communities.

Facilitator: Stuart Adams, STARRII Building Science Lead

Subject Matter Experts:

1. **John Ingargiola, EI, CFM***, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Lead Physical Scientist, HMA Building Codes SME/Advisor, Hazard Mitigation Assistance Division (HMAD)
2. **Chad Berginnis, CFM**, Association of State Floodplain Managers Executive Director and CEO

Location: Egret Meeting Room, Third Floor

Breakout Session #3 – *The Power and Influence of Risk Communication*

How do we bring resilience to new audiences and inspire broader action? This moderated dialogue will explore emerging opportunities to expand resilience engagement through trusted voices, digital platforms, live experiences, storytelling, and new channels of influence. Building on ideas, insights, and themes emerging from NDRC26, the discussion will examine how social media, technology, creators, community gatherings, and evolving communication trends can help move resilience beyond traditional audiences. A panel of subject matter experts (SMEs) will contribute perspectives, respond to audience questions, and help identify practical approaches to increase awareness, drive participation, and deliver resilience messages that inspire action.

Facilitators & Subject Matter Experts:

1. **Amy Sweezy***, Florida Weather Authority Meteorologist
2. **Tom Sorrells***, Florida Weather Authority Meteorologist
3. **Dr. Rick Knabb**, *The Weather Channel's* Tropical Program Manager and former National Hurricane Center Director

Location: Ibis Meeting Room, Third Floor

Group Photo

Take part in the official group photo everyone will be talking about!

Location: Dunes Ballroom, Lobby Level

General Session

Location: Dunes Ballroom, Lobby Level

Presentation Sponsored by USAA

Spotlight Interview: *#HurricaneStrong – Stories from the Front Lines*

Join the USAF Hurricane Hunters for a special conversation exploring the power of partnership, preparedness, and perseverance in advancing resilience. Through the lens of the [#HurricaneStrong](#) blue-sky collaboration, this session will highlight how trusted partnerships help communities prepare before disaster strikes and recover stronger afterward. This spotlight will reflect on the importance of forecasting, communication, and courage in protecting lives and strengthening communities—and why resilience begins long before a storm makes landfall.

Presenters:

1. **Maj. Alex Boykin***, Instructor Pilot, 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, U.S. Air Force Reserve Hurricane Hunters
2. **Maj. Sarah Olsen***, Aerial Reconnaissance Weather Officer, 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, U.S. Air Force Reserve Hurricane Hunters

Interviewed by: Dr. Rick Knabb, The Weather Channel's Tropical Program Manager and former National Hurricane Center Director

Resilience Roundtable: *The Power of Innovation*

Resilience requires more than preparation—it requires innovation. This session will highlight breakthrough technologies and practical solutions that are transforming disaster resilience and helping communities adapt to emerging risks. Through examples spanning wildfire mitigation, resilient roofing, enhanced building components, 3D printing, and other emerging technologies, panelists will share how innovation can accelerate implementation, strengthen performance, and deliver measurable outcomes for homeowners, businesses, and communities.

Presenters: TBA

Featured Presentation: *Weathering the Future – Communicating Risk, Building Resilience, and Inspiring Action*

Join Tim Smith, Chief Meteorologist at KRGV-TV and the [2026 National Weatherperson of the Year](#), for a compelling discussion on the evolving role of weather communication in building stronger, safer communities. Drawing on more than three decades of experience forecasting and communicating high-impact weather across the Rio Grande Valley, Tim will share lessons learned from the front lines of severe weather, explore how trusted voices can influence preparedness and protective action, and reflect on why resilience begins with informed communities. The session will also include the official announcement opening public voting for the *2027 National Weatherperson of the Year* award, recognizing the meteorologists and weather communicators helping advance preparedness and resilience nationwide.

Presenter: Tim Smith, KRGV-TV Chief Meteorologist, National Tropical Weather Conference Co-Founder, & *2026 National Weatherperson of the Year*

Building Momentum for What Comes Next & Closing Luncheon

This closing luncheon and interactive session will bring attendees together to reflect on breakout session dialogue, key insights, emerging priorities, and practical solutions identified throughout NDRC26. Through a facilitated discussion informed by conference sessions and attendee engagement, participants will explore what is needed to accelerate resilience outcomes and turn ideas into action across sectors and communities. The conversation will focus on opportunities to strengthen collaboration, advance innovation, and identify tangible next steps that support stronger, safer, and more resilient communities. Key themes and recommendations from the session will help shape post-conference communications and future resilience initiatives.

Facilitator: TBA

Closing: *Delivering the D.R.E.A.M. – Reflections, Recognition & What's Next*

Join FLASH President and CEO Leslie Chapman-Henderson as she brings NDRC26 to a close with reflections on key themes, ideas, and momentum generated throughout the conference. This closing session will acknowledge the collective contributions of speakers, sponsors, partners, exhibitors, and attendees whose leadership and collaboration continue to advance resilience nationwide.

Presenter: Leslie Chapman-Henderson, FLASH President and CEO

*Invited