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# NESEC NEWS

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## Bornemann Named Vermont Director



*Vermont DEMHS Director Erica Bornemann*

WATERBURY, VT – Vermont Governor Phil Scott recently appointed Erica Bornemann Director of the Vermont Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

Erica has worked for VT DEMHS (formerly Vermont Emergency Management) since 2007. She previously served as Chief of Staff, and as Planning Chief for the Division, during which time she oversaw the Radiological Emergency Response Program as well as the State Emergency Operations Plan. Erica holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Western New England College and a Master of Public Administration from Norwich University. She lives in Morrisville, Vermont with her husband and two sons.

Erica will replace Christopher Herrick as Director of Vermont Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS). Christopher Herrick has been asked by the Governor to serve as the Deputy Commissioner of Public Safety.

“I am pleased to add each of these individuals to my team. I

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## Remembering Robert C. “Bob” Bohlmann

WELLS, ME - Robert C. Bohlmann our dear friend and colleague passed away on November 17, 2016.

Bob was born and grew up in Connecticut, attending schools there and graduating from Housatonic Valley High School in Falls Village, Conn. He went on to graduate from Hartford Institute of Criminology with an AS in Criminal Justice.

Soon after his graduation, he joined the U.S. Army. He was assigned to the military police, received training in New York City for training and stationed in Germany.

Upon his discharge, Bob returned to become a public safety officer at the Bradley International Airport before joining the Windsor Locks Police Department. After two years, he joined the Simsbury, Connecticut Police Department and trained at the Connecticut Police Academy.

Seizing an opportunity that presented itself, Bob opened Nuclear Security Forces Inc., providing security to the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power. He owned and operated the company for 20 years before selling it and moving to Wells, Maine in early 1989.



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**Robert C. Bohlmann** IAEM PHOTO

## Bornemann Named Vermont Director

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know their skills will serve Vermonters well as my administration works to grow the economy, make Vermont more affordable and protect our most vulnerable,” said Governor Phil Scott.

“We’re bringing a strong team of leaders, that are committed to public service, and I’m looking forward to working with each of them.”

Please join us in congratulating Erica on her appointment as the new Vermont Director and welcoming her to the NESEC Board of Directors and congratulating Chris on his appointment as Deputy Commissioner.

## New Hampshire Offers Advice to Keep Your Data Safe From Hackers



CONCORD, NH - New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management suggests that everyone follow four simple steps to keep their systems and information safe from hackers. “The easiest way for a hacker to gain access to your system and data is through you,” NH-HSEM Director Perry Plummer said. “By being cautious when online, using common sense, and taking a few simple precautions, you can prevent the vast majority of hacks.”

First, be cautious and use common sense when you are online. Hackers often trick victims into sharing information by contacting a victim and posing as tech support, posing as a legitimate business, or offering rewards or prizes for a victim’s assistance or participation. These types of attacks will often be accompanied by an unusual sense of urgency or with promises that are too good to be true. If something about the interaction seems odd, do not share your information.

Second, use strong, unique passwords for each account and device. A strong password is one that consists of numbers, letters, and symbols and cannot be easily guessed by a hacker or an automated program.

Third, always keep your applications and operating sys-

tems updated. Hackers will exploit known vulnerabilities in software and operating systems to gain access to your system and data.

Fourth, perform regular backups. If your system is hacked, you will be able to restore lost information from a backup. Also, performing regular backups keeps you from being at the mercy of a hacker who tries to hold your data hostage in exchange for a ransom.

## Bob Bohlmann Remembered

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Bob served as a volunteer emergency management director for several communities in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Maine. Most recently Bob was hired as the Emergency Management Director for York County, Maine, where he served with a high degree of skill, proficiency, and integrity at the county level from 1994 through his retirement in May 2011. Bob led a premier emergency management program, with a great many successes in mitigating the effects of coastal and inland disasters, and in recruiting, cultivating, and growing one of the most outstanding and well-trained volunteer cadres in the Nation. He led a highly functional donations management program and administered a pinnacle search-and-rescue volunteer cadre with numerous documented success stories. Upon his retirement as York County Director, he joined FEMA, and responded to numerous national events, including devastating tornadoes in the south and Hurricane Irene that hit Vermont.

Bob was very active with International Association of Emergency Managers, serving as chair of Government Affairs Committee, and on several other committees for many years. He was a certified Emergency Manager with lifetime status. “Bob was co-founder of the IAEM Scholarship Program,” said Dawn Shiley, IAEM Scholarship Director. “Through his guidance, the program has provided more than 50 scholarships since 2001 and has grown to be a viable program. Bob’s vision for the program will be carried on by the Scholarship Commission because of the strong foundation that he created.”

Throughout his emergency management career, Bob maintained a firm commitment to excellence. He frequently offered his advice, skill, and expertise for the benefit of other practitioners, programs, and organizations. Bob was known by first name by key senators and congressional staff, and he was always eagerly welcomed during Capitol Hill visits. He was a tremendous advocate for the emergency management profession and he loved doing it.

Bob served as the IAEM Liaison to the Northeast States Emergency Consortium (NESEC) and will be greatly missed by his NESEC friends and colleagues. “Bob was a true ambassador of Emergency Management” said William J. Hackett, NESEC Chairman “He served as a mentor and friend to all. His dedication to the profession was always genuine and heartfelt.”

## Vermont Governor Appoints Joe Flynn Secretary of Transportation



Vermont Secretary of Transportation Joe Flynn  
VT DOT PHOTO

MONTPELIER, VT - Vermont Governor Phil Scott has appointed Joe Flynn as Secretary of Transportation with oversight of the Vermont Agency of Transportation.

Flynn previously served as deputy commissioner of the state's Department of Public Safety, an agency he has been with since 2012. He also worked in the Irene Recovery Office with the Agency of Administration between November 2011 and February 2012 and served as Director of Vermont Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and on the Board of Directors of the Northeast States Emergency Consortium (NESEC).

Flynn serves on the District 6 Environmental Commission, the Public Safety Broadband Network Commission and is a trustee of Lyndon Institute.

Please join us in congratulating Joe on his appointment as Vermont's Secretary of Transportation.

## Can We Make Older Buildings More Resistant to Earthquakes?

There is an often-repeated saying, "Earthquakes don't kill people, buildings do." Although you can't control the seismic hazard where you live and work, you can influence the most important factor in saving lives and



reducing losses from an earthquake through *the adoption and enforcement of up-to-date building codes.*

### What are Building Codes?

Building codes are sets of regulations governing the design, construction, alteration, and maintenance of structures. They specify the minimum requirements to adequately safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of building occupants.

Rather than create and maintain their own codes, most Northeast States have adopted the model building codes as the basis for their state codes.

### How are the Codes Enforced?

Adopting the latest building codes is only part of the solution. Codes must also be effectively enforced to ensure that buildings and their occupants benefit from advances in seismic provisions in the model codes. For the most part, code enforcement is the responsibility of local government building officials.

### What about Older Buildings?

Except in certain circumstances, such as when a building is significantly renovated or altered or there is a

change in its use the code requirements for existing buildings are those that were in effect when the structure was originally designed and constructed.

Your community probably has many older structures that are not protected against earthquakes. This is because buildings are often used for decades before being replaced or substantially altered. These existing buildings are the single biggest contributor to seismic risk in the United States today.

### Can We Make Older Buildings Safe?

It's possible to make these buildings more resistant to earthquakes through *seismic retrofitting*. When dealing with a population of buildings, the first step is to perform a quick survey using [Rapid Visual Screening of Buildings for Potential Seismic Hazards \(FEMA 154\)](#), or the electronic version, FEMA 154 ROVER. The next step is to evaluate the building using [Seismic Evaluation of Existing Buildings \(ASCE/SEI 31-03\)](#).

If the evaluation shows that retrofitting is needed, this should be done using [Seismic Rehabilitation of Existing Buildings \(ASCE/SEI 41-06\)](#). ASCE/SEI 31-03 and 41-06 were recently updated and combined together into ASCE/SEI 41-15. The FEMA publication [Techniques for the Seismic Rehabilitation of Existing Buildings \(FEMA 547\)](#) provides an extensive description of retrofit techniques for strengthening the structural elements of buildings.

Seismic retrofitting of a building must also include steps to better protect non-structural components (suspended ceilings, non-load-bearing walls, and utility systems) and building contents (furnishings, supplies, inventory, and equipment). [Reducing the Risks of Non-Structural Earthquake Damage \(FEMA E-74\)](#) is an excellent resource for information on mitigating risk to non-structural components and contents.

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## NESEC NEWS

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