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## **Seattle Hosts National Earthquake Program Managers (NEPM) Meeting**

The first week of May proved to be an exciting time for Earthquake Program Managers from across the country as they gathered at this year's NEPM Meeting in the beautiful city of Seattle, WA. Nearly 100 attendees from Guam to Puerto Rico assembled at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Seattle to discuss, listen, and learn about the Role of the Earthquake Program Manager. Some Earthquake Program Managers even had the opportunity to explore the Seattle Fault and/or Cascadia Fault on Bainbridge Island before the meeting officially kicked off on Tuesday, May 1.

The location of this meeting was held in an area where the "Big One" could occur. Seattle and the Pacific Northwest are located in the Cascadia Subduction Zone where a magnitude 9.0 earthquake hit the region in 1700. With stresses building along this subduction zone for over 300 years, we need to ensure we are ready and prepared for the next big one. Although not related to the Cascadia Subduction Zone, eerily enough, a 5.0 Earthquake shook the big island of Hawaii on the afternoon of May 3 as teams were winding down for the day. Little did we know this was one of the 100s of earthquakes (as strong as a 6.9 on May 4) to hit the island as the Kilauea volcano continues to erupt.

The morning of Day 1 gave everyone the chance to meet the VIP members as they introduced themselves and welcomed everyone to the annual meeting. Barb Gaff (Seattle Office of Emergency Management Director), Robert Ezelle (Washington Emergency Management Division Director), Mike O'Hare (FEMA Region X Administrator), Ed Laatsch (FIMA Director, Safety, Planning and Building Science Division), Nick Shufro (FIMA Associate Administrator), and Katherine Johnson (NIST Social Scientist) were the VIP members who officially kicked off the meeting.

Numerous presentations, panel sessions, breakout sessions, strategy sessions, etc. were included in the jam-packed agenda as presentations included the external partner roles and relationships in context to Earthquake Program Managers, WAsafe and Building Safety Assessment, Earthquake Early Warning, USRC Building Rating System, USGS product updates, ShakeOut, HAZUS, Earthquake Performance Assessment Tool, and the FEMA P-1000: Improving School Natural Hazard Safety. Time on the agenda was also set aside for the group to capture valuable updates from the FEMA NEHRP team, Consortia, and States/Territories. In addition, there was even an Earthquake Program Manager (EPM) 101 held on the first day for several hours, which was a huge benefit for a lot of the new faces in the crowd. Lastly, the breakout sessions gave the States/Territories an opportunity to hold conversations with NEPM Committee members, and FEMA an opportunity to review collaborative efforts of the previous years and develop specific goals for enhancing program delivery and State support during the remainder of FY 2018 and FY 2019 with the Consortia and Partners.

We look forward to seeing similar and new faces at the 2019 NEPM as the 2018 NEPM Meeting Chairman/Virginia State Earthquake Program Manager, Matthew Wall handed off his NEPM roles and responsibilities to the 2019 NEPM Committee Chairperson, Bob Carey, Utah State Earthquake Program Manager. A special shout out to this year's NEPM Committee and the Cascadia Region Earthquake Workgroup (CREW) for all of their hard work and support in putting this event together and making it a huge success! See you next year!