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Partner Profile - Edward S. Fratto, NESEC Executive Director

Q: Can you tell us about your organization?

A: The Northeast States Emergency Consortium (NESEC) is a 501(c) (3) not for profit all-hazards emergency management organization, located in Wakefield, Massachusetts. Established in 1991, NESEC is the only all-hazard state consortium in the nation lead exclusively by State Directors of Emergency Management and is supported and funded by the Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont form the consortium. NESEC has a full-time Executive Director and two staff members and is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of the Directors of the State Emergency Management Agencies in the six New England States, New York, and New Jersey.

NESEC develops, promotes, and coordinates comprehensive earthquake and “all-hazards” emergency management activities throughout the Northeast. NESEC’s work is a vital component to planning and response for the safety and welfare of the over 40 million people living in the Northeast. NESEC works in partnership with federal, state and local governments, and private organizations to reduce losses of life and property when the next disaster strikes the Northeast.

Q: What got you interested in earthquakes and emergency management?

A: My first day of work in emergency management was at the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) on March 30, 1981, the day that President Ronald Reagan was shot and wounded by John Hinckley Jr. I realized at that time, early on in my career, how quickly things could change without warning and the importance of not only being prepared, but also being ready to deal with events that you had not planned for. On September 11, 2001, when terrorists flew planes into the North and South towers of the World Trade Center complex in New York City, some said no one could have envisioned terrorists taking a plane and slamming it into the World Trade Center.

The field of emergency management has changed significantly from the 1980’s and since September 11, 2001. We now must be ready for everything and anything whether we can envision it or not. A major and devastating earthquake occurring almost anywhere in the United States may seem unimaginable to many, but is an event that can occur and for which we must be prepared.

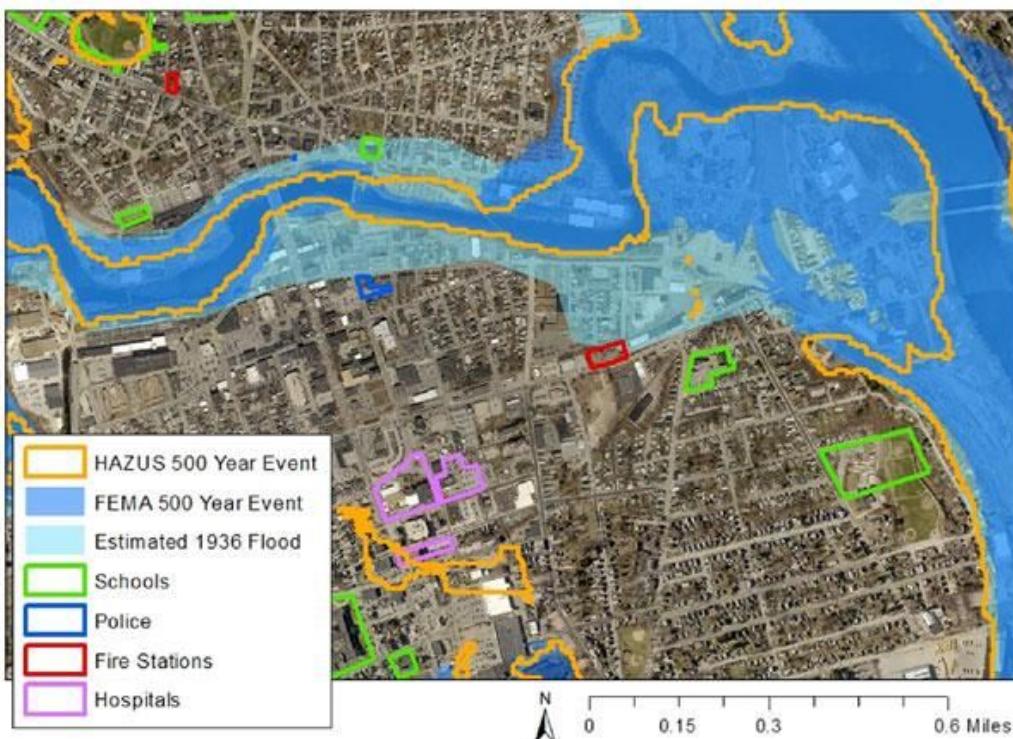
Q: What do you see to be the future of earthquake science and outreach to increase resiliency?

A: Our future successes in earthquake science and outreach to ultimately increase resiliency will be predicated on the following three factors:

- Development and enhancement of positive working relationships and collaboration between scientists and practitioners
- Effective use of spatial analysis and maps derived from GIS to help visually explain risk to decision makers
- Development and advancement of earthquake early warning and prediction

Q: Tell us about an earthquake project your organization is working on to help improve resiliency

A: NESEC's Map Your Risk Multi-Hazard Risk Mapping Assistance Project helps states, communities and other organizations understand their earthquake and multi-hazard risk and plan accordingly.



Mapping critical and essential facilities over hazard-impacted areas can help states, counties and cities and towns visualize damage to their hospitals, fire and police stations, EOC, shelters, etc.

NESEC is funded by the Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide no-cost assistance to help local, state, regional and other organizations in the Northeast understand and mitigate their risk from earthquakes. Using the FEMA HAZUS Program and ESRI ArcMap, NESEC models the impacts of earthquakes as well as hurricanes, floods and coastal storm surge in jurisdictions located in any of our member states. There is no cost to the requesting city, town or state.

NESEC has developed an easy-to understand report covering the economic impacts of any given earthquake, hurricane, or flood. The reports include hazard maps, dollar damage estimates, shelter requirements, debris estimates, critical infrastructure and facility functionality and much, much more. This report can be an important tool for hazard mitigation, emergency planning and operations, training exercises and more.

NESEC has provided hazard risk assessments to the City of Boston MA, Nashua NH, Ipswich, MA, FEMA Region 1, the states of Maine, Connecticut, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and many others.

Q: Do you have any final comments or recommendations for our readers?

A: Yes, I have three final comments I would like to share with our readers.

- First, I would like to invite you all to visit www.nesec.org/earthquakes-hazards to learn about earthquakes in the Northeast.
- Second, if your agency or organization is located in one of the NESEC Member States and is interested in obtaining NESEC's assistance with Multi-Hazard Risk Mapping, please click on the link below and complete the simple application. [NESEC Multi-Hazard Risk Mapping Application Form](http://www.nesec.org/mhra)
- Finally, I would like to leave you with the thought that earthquakes are not just a California problem. Regardless of where the next devastating earthquake occurs, when we all work together through groups like the National Earthquake Resiliency Coalition, we help ensure that the nation is ready.

Earthquakes aren't just a California Problem.

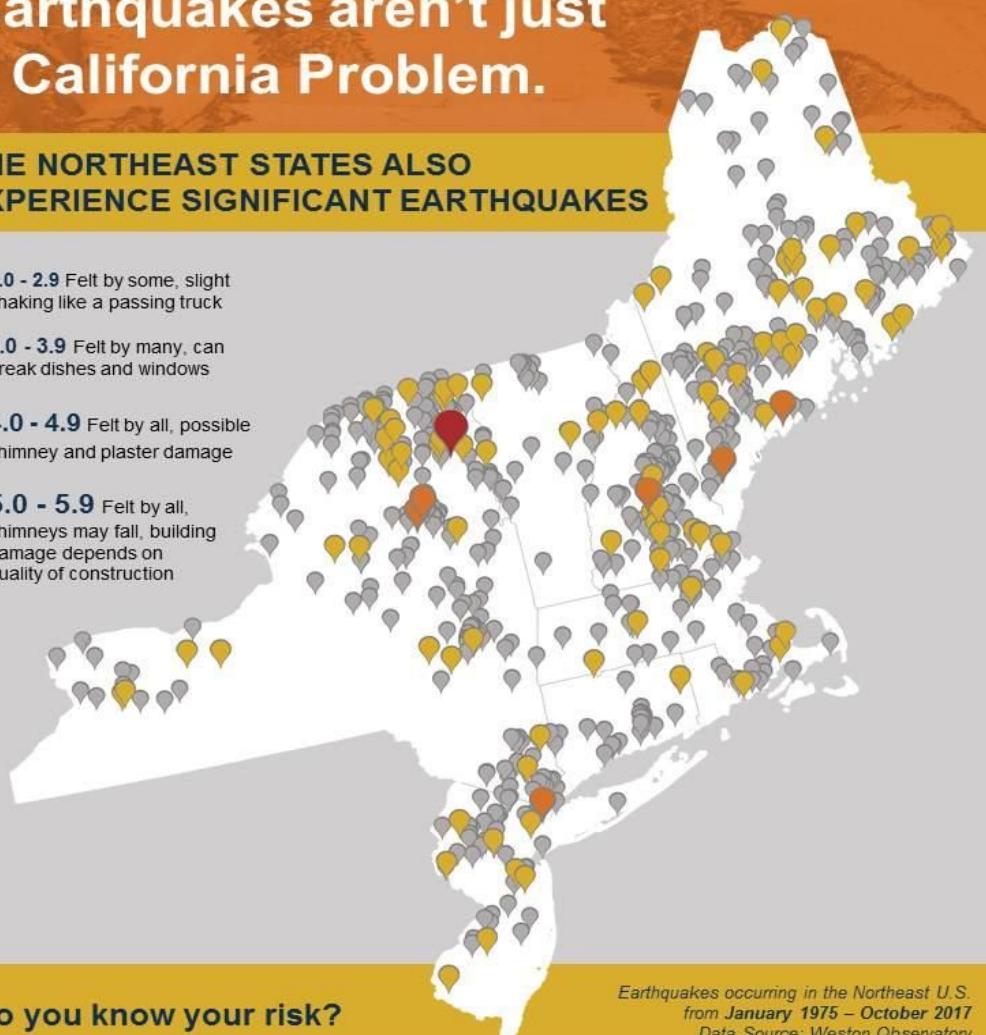
THE NORTHEAST STATES ALSO EXPERIENCE SIGNIFICANT EARTHQUAKES

2.0 - 2.9 Felt by some, slight shaking like a passing truck

3.0 - 3.9 Felt by many, can break dishes and windows

4.0 - 4.9 Felt by all, possible chimney and plaster damage

5.0 - 5.9 Felt by all, chimneys may fall, building damage depends on quality of construction



Do you know your risk?

Earthquakes occurring in the Northeast U.S.
from January 1975 – October 2017
Data Source: Weston Observatory



Visit nesec.org for information about northeast earthquakes, and to learn how we can help **Map Your Risk**.

PREPARED BY THE NORTHEAST STATES EMERGENCY CONSORTIUM