

PUGET SOUND MARITIME DISASTER RESILIENCE VIRTUAL WORKSHOP #2

October 14, 2021 | 9:00 am to 12:00 pm



Featured Speakers



COMMANDER SCOTT HIGBEE
CHIEF, INCIDENT MANAGEMENT
U.S. COAST GUARD DISTRICT 14

CDR Higbee serves as the Chief of Incident Management for the Coast Guard's Fourteenth District in Honolulu. In this role he oversees daily all hazards response for a 12.2 million square mile area of responsibility, and is the Coast Guard's primary search and rescue representative to 21 Pacific Island territories and partner nations. In his previous position as the Chief of Emergency Management for Coast Guard Sector Honolulu, he ensured the unit's preparedness and response readiness for all hazards and contingencies and facilitated local Area Committee, Area Maritime Security Committee, Marine Transportation System Recovery Subcommittee and the Port Security Grant program for the Hawaiian Island chain & American Samoa. His recent disaster response experience includes multiple hurricane and tsunami preparedness exercises throughout the main Hawaiian Islands and he was deployed to New Orleans to serve as Deputy Incident Commander for Coast Guard Sector New Orleans Hurricane Ida response.



CHUCK SHAW
SAFETY OFFICER, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST
WASHINGTON STATE FERRIES

Chuck Shaw has been with the Washington State Ferries for 15 years, and serves a variety of roles in the emergency management and safety realms. In addition to emergency management tasks, Chuck is the self-contained breathing apparatus technician, AED Program Manager, and a Fall Protection Competent Person. Before joining WSDOT, Chuck served 21 years as Active Duty Navy, retiring as a Master Chief. He was also a Volunteer Firefighter, Battalion Chief, and EMT for 20 years, the former Fire Marshal at TODD Pacific Shipyard, and a Volunteer with the Kitsap County Emergency Management Department on their Amateur Radio team.



SETH STORSET
DIRECTOR OF SAFETY
TOTE MARITIME

Seth Storset, Director at TOTE Maritime Alaska that oversees Safety. Including Risk Management, Emergency Response Preparedness and Business Continuity planning. Seth has worked in the Maritime industry for 16 years and is well versed in marine operations, regional disruption impacts and mitigation.



DAN NUTT
DIRECTOR OF REGULATORY AFFAIRS
KIRBY OFFSHORE MARITIME LLC

Captain Dan Nutt is a Washington native residing in Lone, WA and currently the Director, Regulatory Affairs for Kirby Offshore Marine, LLC.

Dan began his maritime career in the U.S. Coast Guard, serving on the Northwest coast at LaPush, WA, as well as Station Bellingham, buoy tenders on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers in Kentucky, and the buoy tenders Fir and Bayberry in Seattle, WA. After 12 years in the Coast Guard, he began working on tugs and barges, serving as a tug captain throughout the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. In 1998, he came ashore and has served in a variety of operations and safety-related positions for Washington-based tug and barge operators, and to the present with Kirby Offshore Marine, headquartered in Houston Texas.

Dan is a past Chair of the American Waterways Operators Pacific Region; has served on the USCG Towing Safety Advisory Committee; is currently the President of the Washington State Maritime Cooperative; and has served on the boards of the Alaska spill response cooperatives Alaska Chadux in Anchorage and SEAPRO in Ketchikan. Dan has also served as an alternate Marine Industry representative to the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council.

In his current position with Kirby, Dan is responsible for emergency preparedness and contingency planning for 30 tug-tank barge units operating nationwide and is a member of Kirby Corporation's Incident Management Team. He has also worked closely with the U.S. Coast Guard and Department of Ecology in vessel compliance.



DAN MCKISSON
PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON AREA DISTRICT COUNCIL
MEMBER, ILWU 19

Dan McKisson is a member of ILWU Local 19, Seattle. He has worked as a full time longshoreman since 1998 and has worked most jobs at the port as he moved up in seniority and is a certified crane operator. He has worked as an elected Dispatcher in Local 19 since 2010.

Mr. McKisson was elected to the Washington Area District Council in 2005 and has served as president since 2011. He has served as an elected Delegate since 2007 and has been a member of the Coast Pension and Welfare Committee during that time. He has been a member of the Coast Legislative Action Committee since 2014 and is the current Chairperson. He was elected to the International Executive Board in 2018 and serves as a Trustee. In the past he has also served as the Local 19 Washington Area Labor Relations Committee member and as a member of the Longshore Tech Committee.

Mr. McKisson has served as a representative of the ILWU on the Washington State Freight Advisory Committee, Seattle Freight Advisory Board, Puget Sound Regional Freight Policy Board and the Washington State Freight Stakeholders Group.

Mr. McKisson brings broad practical and political experience to the table when advocating for workers, ports and the movement of freight and the infrastructure needed for an efficient and safe logistics system.



LEN FAUCHER
MARINE TERMINAL DIRECTOR
PORT OF OLYMPIA

Len Faucher has been the Marine Terminal Director for the Port of Olympia since January of 2015 and has successfully brought in several new cargoes including dairy cattle for Vietnam, gold ore from Ireland, organic grain from Turkey, bagged rice from Thailand, construction equipment from South America, and locomotives for Indonesia while maintaining strong relationships with existing log tenants Weyerhaeuser and Holbrook. Len earned his MBA from the University of New Hampshire and his BS in Marine Transportation from the United States Merchant Marine Academy. Len previously sailed on various ships around the world as a merchant mariner, was a commissioned officer in the Naval Reserves, worked for a ship broker in Connecticut, and scheduled ships and terminals on the east coast. Len is on a few local boards including as Vice President of the Tacoma Propeller Club, Assistant Governor for Rotary, and on the Hands On Children's Museum board in Olympia. Len lives in Lacey, Washington with his wife Margaret and their 3 young children.



COSMO PERRONE
FORMER CONSULTANT & DIRECTOR OF SECURITY FOR
PORT OF LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

Now retired, Mr. Perrone is the former Director of Security for the Port of Long Beach, California, serving in that capacity for six years (2005-2011). He directed the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) program for the 3,000 acre complex, overseeing 24-hour patrols, anti-terrorism programs and the operation of security systems with a strong emphasis on resiliency. Recognized by Security Magazine in 2007 as one of the "Top 25 Most Influential People in the Security Industry," and a "Port Authority Visionary," and again in 2009 as "the most aggressive change agent" in the port security sector, Mr. Perrone's innovations to revamp and modernize security at the Port of Long Beach included a port-wide network of surveillance cameras, radar, and sonar sensors to enhance "domain awareness" below, at, or above water and ground level. This concept of "system and regional integration" which is now maturing into a "Virtual Port Concept" is housed in the Port's state-of-the-art Command and Control Center which opened in 2009.

Mr. Perrone's more than three decades in the security field also include ten years with the Department of Defense Investigative Service and twenty-three years in the aerospace industry, including nearly twenty years as Director of Security and Fire Services for McDonnell Douglas and Boeing. As Director of Security and Fire Services, he was responsible for the development and implementation of key policies for the companies' global security functions and was Boeing's Southern California Executive Coordinator for all Homeland Security issues.



STEVE HEITMAN
FIRE CHIEF
RENTON REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY

After serving our country in the United States Military, Steve Heitman joined the Mercer Island Fire Department in 2001. Working his way up the ranks, he served Mercer Island as fire chief from 2014 to 2020, before accepting the role as Fire Chief at Renton Regional Fire Authority. In addition to his 20 years of experience in fire and life safety, Chief Heitman has earned three Associates Degrees, a Bachelor of Science Degree in Public Safety Administration, and a Master of Arts Degree in Security Studies from the Naval Post Graduate School, where his studies were focused on improving the health and well-being of firefighters. He also holds the designations of Executive Fire Officer and Chief Fire Officers.

Chief Heitman is a member of the King County Fire Chiefs Association, where he works with fire chiefs throughout the region to share best practices, address social and systemic concerns within our communities and our organizations, and improve efficiency and consistent in fire and life safety throughout King County.



STEPHEN RIBUFFO
DIRECTOR
PORT OF ALASKA AT ANCHORAGE

Steve Ribuffo is the Director of the Port of Alaska, an Enterprise Department of the Municipality of Anchorage. In this capacity, he is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day business operations of the Port; interacting as needed with tenants, the U.S. Coast Guard, the military and any new business prospects interested in operating out of the Port. He has been with the Port since August 2007, when he came aboard as Deputy Port Director. Mr. Ribuffo has been Port Director since June 2014. Steve retired from the United States Air Force as a Colonel, having served 30 years on active duty. A native New Yorker, he graduated from Manhattan College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing. He also has an MBA from Golden Gate University, and a Master of Science degree in Logistics Management from the Air Force Institute of Technology. He is an Accredited Marine Port Executive. Steve is a member of the Board of Directors of the Anchorage Downtown Partnership and the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation Investors' Council. He is Vice-Chair of the International Association of Maritime and Port Executives' Advisory Board. He also serves on the University of Alaska – Anchorage's Global Supply Chain Management Curriculum Advisory Committee and is Chairman of Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee.



AMY LUCAS
COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PROGRAM MANAGER
SNOHOMISH COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Amy Lucas is the Community Resilience Program Manager at Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management, and the project manager for the FY 2019 Puget Sound Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program. With a background in Healthcare, Infrastructure, and Land Use planning, she is working with regional partners and agencies to build greater resiliency and emergency response capacities within Snohomish County and its cities.



DREW SCHWITTERS
GIS ANALYST, PRINCIPAL
SNOHOMISH COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Drew Schwitters is the Principal Geographic Information Systems Analyst at Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management. He holds a Master's degree in GIS and applies geospatial problem solving to issues ranging from wildlife conservation to 911 call routing. At Snohomish County Drew authored methodologies for identifying potentially isolated communities during catastrophic events in Snohomish County and locating CPODs to serve those communities. This work was outlined in the RCPGP grant application, which was awarded to Snohomish County in 2019. He now assists the RCPGP team in bringing this framework to the entire Puget Sound region through the collection, analysis, and presentation of geospatial data.

Panel Moderators



ERIC HOLDEMAN
DIRECTOR
CENTER FOR REGIONAL DISASTER RESILIENCE

Eric Holdeman is the Director of the Center for Regional Disaster Resilience (CRDR), which is part of PNWER. His areas of expertise include building regional coalitions between agencies, governments, the private sector and non-profits. Building regional disaster resilience is key to what he does day-to-day. He has also authored numerous articles for professional journals and opinion pieces for local, regional and national newspapers. He is a Senior Fellow, columnist, contributing writer and blogger for Emergency Management Magazine. An experienced and accomplished public speaker, he is sought after to present at national and regional conferences. Eric has the United States' most popular blog on the topic of emergency management at www.disaster-zone.com.

Eric has an extensive work experience in the areas of emergency management and homeland security. He has worked as a Port Security Director for the Port of Tacoma, a "top ten" United States port, supervising 60 personnel and administering \$56M in Port Security Grants and projects. Previous to that he worked as a consultant for ICF International, a Fairfax, Virginia based consulting firm. Prior to joining ICF he was a local emergency management director for King County.



BRANDON HARDENBROOK
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
PACIFIC NORTHWEST ECONOMIC REGION

Brandon Hardenbrook, serves as the Chief Operating Officer of the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER),. His duties include overseeing all PNWER staff and programs in coordination with PNWER's governing board, which includes legislative leadership of each state, province, and territory as well as governors and premiers, and private sector leaders. PNWER's 22 working groups include trade & economic development, energy, border issues, agriculture, invasive species, tourism, disaster resilience, transportation, water policy and others. Before joining PNWER, Brandon served as an Army Air Defense Officer followed by several years in the healthcare industry. Brandon holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from Seattle University and a Bachelor of Science from Pacific Lutheran University.