



Speaker Biographies

Bob Thompson, Meteorologist-in-Charge, National Weather Service, Taunton, MA

Bob Thompson is the Meteorologist-in-Charge of the Southern New England National Weather Service Forecast Office in Taunton, MA. He is also an adjunct professor at Anna Maria College. Bob grew up in Cohasset, Massachusetts. He received a Bachelor of Science in Meteorology from Florida State University and a Masters Degree in Atmospheric Science from the University of Washington (in Seattle). Bob's career with the National Weather Service started as a summer student trainee at the Boston office during the early 1970s. Subsequent National Weather Service assignments have taken him and his family to Albany, NY, Anchorage, AK, Silver Spring, MD, and Reno, NV before returning to the Boston area in November 1989.

Dr. Earl J. "Jay" Baker, Associate Professor, Florida State University

Since 1975, Dr. Baker has conducted studies following hurricanes to document how the public responded and why. Study locations have included every Gulf and Atlantic coastal state from Texas through Massachusetts, plus Hawaii. He has conducted studies on hazard perception and evacuation response intentions in those states and has applied the findings of his research to the development of hurricane evacuation plans. His research also includes public attitudes toward hurricane hazard mitigation options, household preparedness for disasters, and public response to other hazards, including tornadoes, floods, and nuclear power plants. He has worked on methods to assess the costs incurred by local governments in evacuating residents and has worked with colleagues to evaluate the effectiveness of local government comprehensive plans in Florida in mitigating certain aspects of hurricane hazards in coastal areas.

He was a founding partner in the inception of the National Hurricane Conference and continues to be on the conference's planning committee. He retired in 2014 from the Department of Geography at Florida State University and is president of Hazards Management Group, an emergency management research and consulting firm.

Scott MacLeod, Mitigation & Disaster Recovery Section Chief, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

Scott MacLeod is the Mitigation & Disaster Recovery Section Chief for the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). In his current role, Scott oversees MEMA's Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Recovery staff and administration & implementation of federal disaster assistance programs in the Commonwealth. Scott has worked in State government for the past nineteen years administering both state and federal grant programs. Working with MEMA for the past nine years, Scott has coordinated with local communities, state agencies, and other eligible applicants to assist in their recovery from federally-declared disasters. Utilizing FEMA hazard mitigation grant programs, he has also assisted hundreds of applicants to develop and implement natural hazard mitigation grant projects that reduce or eliminate natural hazard risks to people, structures, and infrastructure.

Prior to joining MEMA, Scott served as the Planning Director for the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission within the Massachusetts Department of Transportation. In this role, he coordinated with federal, state and local officials to implement airport safety & improvement grants and capital projects at Massachusetts' public use airports. He is a 1994 graduate of Westfield State University with a B.S. in Regional Planning, is a Henry Toll Fellow and also holds a Master's Degree from the University of Rhode Island in community planning and development.

Matt Noyes, Chief Meteorologist, New England Cable News

Chief Meteorologist Matt Noyes joined the NECN family in 2002, and broadcasts weekday mornings from 5-10 a.m.

A native of Haverhill, MA, who still lives in his hometown, Matt is a graduate of Cornell University and Phillips Academy Andover, and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Meteorology.

A member of both the American Meteorological Society and the National Weather Association, Matt enjoys igniting passion and curiosity, for weather and the world around us, in others.

In addition to his forecasting experience, Noyes has been an instructor of Meteorology at the college level, and over his career, has shared his weather knowledge and enthusiasm with over 120,000 students of all ages.

During his tenure at NECN, Matt's dedication to our region's schools brought a commendation from the Massachusetts State Senate, and he has delivered those same efforts on-air, through his weathercasts, reports and interactive viewer segments. Noyes has always believed in offering the viewer more - from first delivering regular, hour-by-hour rain/snow maps in the Boston market, to pioneering NECN's exclusive 10-day forecast today.

Matt's community work has earned him several awards for dedication to local municipalities and organizations, as well as the Massachusetts State Police Public Service Award for assisting in preparation for a major hurricane strike to New England. Matt also provided his services to the State Police for street level weather forecasting and analysis during the Democratic National Convention in 2004, and his efforts to raise awareness for military Veterans and families earned him the Patriot Award from the Ahern Charitable Foundation.

Noyes has conducted private forecasting for aviators, which led to national victories in races requiring no use of instrumentation during flight.

Before joining the NECN family, Matt was a meteorologist at NewsChannel 34 in Binghamton, NY, and NewsChannel 9 in Syracuse.

Amy Grzybowski, Town Manager, Town of Westerly, Rhode Island

Amy Grzybowski is currently the Town Manager for the Town of Westerly. She is also the Director of Planning, Code Enforcement & Grant Administration for the Town of Westerly. She started with the Town in July 2012. She oversees all aspects of Planning, Zoning, Building, and Code Enforcement activities for the Town. She is also the Town's Emergency Management Director and heavily invested in mitigation, preparedness, and recovery. She managed the recovery from Superstorm Sandy for the Town. In 2005, Ms. Grzybowski was hired in 2005 by the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency as the Grant Manager. After two years, she became the Planning Manager responsible for the oversight of all the all-hazards statewide plans. In 2010, she was hired by CDR Maguire

as the Director of Emergency Management where she assisted communities with FEMA Public Assistance, hazard mitigation planning, and grant writing and grant administration.

Ms. Grzybowski was elected vice-chairman of the Washington County Local Emergency Response Commission which assists in proper Tier II reporting for hazardous materials in the county. She was also elected President of the Rhode Island Association of Emergency Managers. This is an organization comprised of professionals in the furtherance of training, preparedness, response, and recovery in the field of emergency management.

Lisa Crowner, Statewide Health Educator/Trainer, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Lisa Crowner presently is the Statewide Health Educator/Trainer for the Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management (OPEM) within the Commonwealth's Department of Public Health. She is housed at the Southeast Regional Health Office in New Bedford. Lisa's background consists of over 25 years of education and prevention work dealing with various public health topics and presenting to diverse audiences. Some of these diverse groups consist of pregnant and parenting teens, inmates, ex-offenders, law enforcement personnel, emergency medical service providers, people living with HIV/AIDS, local boards of health, and at times the general public.

Mike McCallan, Director of Emergency Planning, National Grid

Michael McCallan is the Director of Emergency Planning at National Grid. Mr. McCallan joined National Grid in 1985 as a Field Engineer and he has held numerous positions in Electric Operations throughout his career. Before starting in Emergency Planning in 2012, Mr. McCallan was the Director of Process Improvement and Lean Six Sigma; earlier in his career, Mr. McCallan held positions as a Director in Electric Operations Transformation and Manager of Electric Operations.

As the Director of Emergency Planning, Mr. McCallan oversees the development and documentation of emergency plans for gas and electric events, shelter in place, crisis management, emergency action plans, business continuity including conducting exercises, and coordinating with government emergency response organizations. In addition, Mr. McCallan is accountable for the performance of the Emergency Response end to end process, ensuring that process excellence targets are achieved.

Tom Cacciola, Vice President of Facilities Support, The Cumberland Gulf Group

Tom began his career with A&P Food Stores. He joined Cumberland Farms in 1990 as a Retail Store Manager and was promoted to Area Manager in 1991. Tom was subsequently promoted to the positions of Corporate Marketing Manager in 1993, Regional Manager in 1994, and Senior Regional Manager in 1999. In 2009, he was promoted to the position of Director of Facility Support and in 2013 he was promoted to Vice President of Facility Support.

Paul Morey, Hurricane Program Manager, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region I

Paul Morey works for FEMA Region I as the Hurricane Program Manager. He works closely with federal, state and local agencies and organizations on hurricane related training, technical assistance, preparedness, response, planning and mitigation activities. He is also a member of the FEMA Hurricane Liaison Team (HLT) and as such has deployed to the National Hurricane Center for Hurricanes Earl, Irene and Sandy. Paul has a Bachelor's degree in Earth and Geographic Sciences from the University of Massachusetts at Boston. He served as a meteorologist in the Massachusetts Air National Guard for six years, supporting the United States Army and Air Force. Paul also provided

weather support to the United States Army in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2005. He has extensive experience in the field of natural hazards preparedness, response and mitigation having worked as a local, state and federal natural hazards specialist in a variety of roles.

Kurt N. Schwartz, Undersecretary for Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Executive Office of Public Safety and Security; Director, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

Kurt Schwartz serves as the Massachusetts Undersecretary for Homeland Security and Emergency Management in the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security. Mr. Schwartz, who was first appointed as an Undersecretary of Public Safety in 2007, provides strategic leadership to the Massachusetts National Guard, the Department of Fire Services, the Commonwealth Fusion Center, and the Homeland Security Division. Mr. Schwartz also serves as the Director of the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, which is the agency that operates the State Emergency Operations Center and is responsible for ensuring the state's preparedness to withstand, respond to, and recover from natural and technological hazards and deliberate attacks. Mr. Schwartz also serves as the state's Homeland Security Advisor and chairs the State's Homeland Security Advisory Council. Prior to his appointment as an Undersecretary of Public Safety, Mr. Schwartz worked for 19 years as a state criminal prosecutor, and before that as a police officer and an emergency medical technician.