

# Michael Spagnolo, CEM

## FEMA Liaison National Hurricane Center

[michael.spagnolo@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:michael.spagnolo@fema.dhs.gov)

Michael Spagnolo is the FEMA Liaison to the National Hurricane Center (NHC), serving as the Deputy Hurricane Liaison Team (HLT) Manager. Michael facilitates and coordinates the exchange of information between the NHC and emergency managers in threatened areas. This exchange of information helps emergency managers make informed decisions and assists the NHC in providing decision support during tropical incidents. Michael also participates in preparedness training and outreach activities. Michael joined FEMA in July 2022.

Prior to his role with FEMA, Michael was the Deputy State Meteorologist for over five years at the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM). At FDEM, he provided meteorological decision support to the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) for various incidents, including Hurricanes Irma, Michael, Dorian, and Sally, the 2017 and 2020 wildfire seasons, numerous tornado outbreaks and flooding events, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Surfside building collapse.

Michael is a certified Liaison Officer with Florida's All Hazard Incident Management Team and deployed to the field from the SEOC during the 2020 wildfires in Florida's Panhandle and during the COVID-19 vaccination operations.

Highlighting his expertise and involvement in all areas of emergency management, Michael has earned his Florida Professional



Emergency Manager (FPEM) certification from the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association and his Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) from the International Association of Emergency Managers.

Michael received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Meteorology from the Pennsylvania State University in 2016. During his time at Penn State, he volunteered as an EMT for the Penn State University Ambulance Service. This is where he first spent time in an EOC and was introduced to the important relationship between meteorologists and emergency managers. This has been his passion ever since.

In his free time, Michael volunteers as a Firefighter/EMT. He has been an active EMT since 2015 and a firefighter since 2018. While living in Tallahassee, Michael was a volunteer with Chaires-Capitola Fire Rescue, where he also served as the President for their Board of Directors. Michael enjoyed seeing how the decisions made in state and local EOCs trickled down to the boots on the ground throughout each of the different phases of emergency management.