

STRONGER TOGETHER

 **OCTOBER 28-29, 2025**



**20
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Bay Area UASI

PUBLIC SAFETY PREPAREDNESS SUMMIT

Welcome Letter

Welcome to the 2025 Bay Area UASI Public Safety Preparedness Summit!

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI), it is my privilege to welcome you to the 2025 UASI Public Safety Preparedness Summit. This Summit is more than an event; it is an opportunity to strengthen connections, share expertise, and reaffirm our shared mission to prepare and protect the communities we serve. Each of you plays a vital role in that mission, and we are truly grateful for the time you have dedicated to being here and for the invaluable service you provide every day.

While we are together, you will have the chance to build relationships in a collaborative and dynamic environment as well as enjoy keynote presentations from national and local leaders. Be sure to introduce yourself to the people around you. This is how we connect and build a stronger Bay Area - by working together. Our agenda highlights safety and security to prevent targeted violence; large special event planning within an understanding of current threats to our region; and how integral public communications are to our collective resiliency.

We are delighted to welcome all participants to this year's Summit, especially our first responders and those joining us for the first time. A special thank you goes to our non-government partners, including attendees from community and faith-based organizations, for sharing their experiences and embracing opportunities for collaboration. Beyond the presentations and workshops, this Summit is a space to connect, build relationships, and unite in addressing today's evolving challenges. From natural disasters to emerging threats, our goal is clear: to strengthen and enhance preparedness for the communities we serve.

During the 2025 Bay Area UASI Public Safety Preparedness Summit, let us remember that our greatest strength lies in working side by side. By learning, planning, and preparing together, we demonstrate what it truly means to be Stronger Together.

Thank you for joining us. I wish each of you a productive, rewarding, and engaging Summit.

Sincerely,



Mikyung Kim-Molina
Interim General Manager
Bay Area UASI

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

TIME	EVENT
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	REGISTRATION / NETWORKING <i>Location:</i> Floor 1 - Lobby
Location for Plenary Sessions: Floor 2 – Marines’ Memorial Theatre	
9:00 AM - 9:20 AM	WELCOMING REMARKS AND OPENING CEREMONIES <i>Description:</i> UASI Welcome, Presentation of Colors by the San Francisco Police Department, National Anthem by the San Francisco Fire Department, Opening Prayer, Welcoming Remarks <i>Speakers:</i> Mikyung Kim-Molina , Interim General Manager, Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative; Michael Pappas , Executive Director, San Francisco Interfaith Council; Mary Ellen Carroll , Executive Director, San Francisco Department of Emergency Management
9:20 AM - 9:45 AM	TODAY’S THREAT LANDSCAPE <i>Description:</i> This session offers a high-level briefing on the evolving threat environment affecting public and private organizations, communities, and critical infrastructure. Participants will receive an overview of current risks, emerging trends, prevention efforts, with a focus on how these threats impact preparedness and response strategies in the Bay Area region. <i>Speaker:</i> Mike Sena , Executive Director, Northern California Regional Intelligence Center (NCRIC)
9:45 AM - 10:40 AM	KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: SPECIAL EVENT PLANNING IN A HEIGHTENED THREAT ENVIRONMENT <i>Description:</i> With several large-scale special events planned in the Bay Area in 2026 and the Los Angeles Summer Olympics in 2028, proactive planning and coordination are critical. Deputy Chief David Kowalski, LAPD, will expand on the threat briefing by highlighting key strategies for special event preparedness. His session will focus on the importance of interagency relationships, effective information sharing, and the application of lessons learned from recent high-profile events. Attendees will gain practical insights into how law enforcement and partner organizations can collaborate to ensure safety, security, and resilience during major events that draw global attention. <i>Keynote Speaker:</i> David Kowalski , Deputy Chief, Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), Counter Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau
10:40 AM - 10:45 AM	MAYOR’S WELCOME MESSAGE <i>Speaker:</i> Daniel Lurie , Mayor, City and County of San Francisco
10:45 AM - 11:00 AM	NETWORKING BREAK
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	PANEL DISCUSSION: PROTECTING WHAT MATTERS – FAITH AND LAW ENFORCEMENT IN SERVICE TO COMMUNITY <i>Description:</i> This panel brings together faith leaders, law enforcement, and social service professionals to show how cross-sector collaboration strengthens safety and resilience for houses of worship. Panelists will share real-world strategies for preventing and responding to hate crimes, building trust between law enforcement and congregations through training and events, and integrating social service agencies into both preparedness and recovery planning. With expertise spanning public safety and community care, speakers will explore how operational coordination, trauma-informed outreach, and resource navigation can work in tandem to prepare for large religious gatherings, support families in crisis, and guide long-term healing. The conversation emphasizes trust, communication, and system-level partnerships to better protect communities before, during, and after an incident. <i>Speakers:</i> Moderator – Michael Pappas , Executive Director, San Francisco Interfaith Council; Panelists – Rafael Brinner , Bay Area Jewish Federation's Senior Director of Community Security; Lt. Tommy Isachsen , Santa Rosa Police Department; Sandra Severns , Retired Police Chief/Former Deputy Director of Preparedness

TIME	EVENT
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	LUNCH BREAK <i>Location:</i> Floor 11 - Crystal Ballroom and Crystal Lounge
Location for Plenary Sessions: Floor 2 – Marines’ Memorial Theatre	
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT IN A CHANGING WORLD <i>Description:</i> Emergency management is entering a new era, defined by increasingly frequent and severe disasters, rapid technological change, an explosion of available data, and an evolving role in the communities we serve. These shifts bring undeniable complexity and uncertainty, but also unprecedented opportunities. The challenges we face are too big for any single discipline or jurisdiction, making collaboration, innovation, and trust across the whole community more essential than ever. This session will highlight strategies for navigating this changing landscape while seizing opportunities to strengthen resilience. <i>Keynote Speaker:</i> Jessica Jensen, RAND Corporation
2:00 PM - 2:15 PM	NETWORKING BREAK
2:15 PM - 3:30 PM	PANEL DISCUSSION: SPECIAL EVENT READINESS <i>Description:</i> As the Bay Area prepares to host Super Bowl 60 and FIFA World Cup matches, this panel will bring together leading experts in crisis management, counterterrorism, and emergency operations to share lessons learned from the nation’s largest and most complex events. <i>Speakers:</i> Moderator – Bob Quinn , Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Crisis Management Specialist, Ret.; Panelists – Deputy Chief David Kowalski , LAPD; Pete Gomez , Director, Miami-Dade County Department of Emergency Management; David Laub - Hazardous Response and Special Events Coordination, Los Angeles County Fire Department
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM	KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: FROM EXTREMISM TO PREVENTION: BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES AGAINST VIOLENCE <i>Description:</i> Mubin Shaikh, a former extremist turned internationally recognized counter-extremist expert, shares his powerful personal journey and work with Parents for Peace to illuminate the pathways into, and out of, radicalization. Through lived experience and years of practice, he highlights what drives individuals toward violence, how communities can intervene effectively, and the role of collaboration in building resilience against extremism. This session will not only provide a unique insider perspective but also lay the groundwork for the following day’s Targeted Violence Prevention track, connecting personal stories to practical, community-based strategies for reducing violence and safeguarding vulnerable populations. <i>Keynote Speaker:</i> Mubin Shaikh, Exit Peer Specialist, Parents for Peace
4:30 PM - 5:00 PM	CLOSING REMARKS <i>Speaker:</i> Mikyung Kim-Molina, Interim General Manager, Bay Area UASI
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	JOIN US FOR A NETWORKING RECEPTION (NO HOST) IN THE THEATRE LOBBY

Wednesday, October 29, 2025

TIME	EMERGENCY PUBLIC INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS (EPIC) TRACK	TARGETED VIOLENCE PREVENTION (TVP) TRACK
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	REGISTRATION / NETWORKING <i>Location: Floor 1 - Lobby</i>	
	<i>Location For EPIC Track Sessions: Floor 10 – Commandant’s Ballroom</i>	<i>Location For TVP Track Sessions: Floor 11 – Crystal Ballroom</i>
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	SESSION #1 — PANEL DISCUSSION: EMERGENCY PUBLIC INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATIVE UPDATE Description: This session will discuss recent and upcoming legislation and regulations of interest to emergency managers, public information officers, and alert and warning professionals. Speakers: Moderator – Corey Reynolds , Independent Consultant; Panelists – Mary Jo Flynn-Nevins , Chief of Emergency Services, Sacramento County Office of Emergency Services and Second Vice President, IAEM; Jorge Rodriguez , Community Alert & Warning Program Manager, County of Sonoma Department of Emergency Management	SESSION #1— BEHAVIORAL THREAT ASSESSMENT AND TARGETED VIOLENCE PREVENTION Description: FBI San Francisco will share strategies to identify, assess, and prevent racially/ethnically motivated and targeted violence, with a focus on safeguarding faith communities. Speaker: Desiree Gorham , FBI San Francisco Behavioral Analysis Unit Coordinator/Threat Management Coordinator
10:00 AM - 10:15 AM	NETWORKING BREAK	
10:15 AM - 11:15 AM	SESSION #2 — PANEL DISCUSSION: HARNESSING AI AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES TO ENHANCE EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND PUBLIC MESSAGING Description: The world of emergency communication is changing rapidly with the introduction of artificial intelligence and an ever-growing landscape of technologies our communities use to get information. While we have much to learn, there are innovative uses of AI and other emerging technologies today that have been instrumental in effective emergency management and public information. Speakers: Moderator – Suzanne Frew , President and Founder, The Frew Group; Panelists – John Clarke Mills , CEO, Watch Duty; Sarah Miller , Associate Professor and Department Chair, Pierce College; Zachary Hamill , Emergency Operations Manager, Sutter County	SESSION #2 — BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH DIALOGUE AND SECURITY Description: This session highlights a joint case study from the Armenian and Jewish communities, illustrating how faith groups can support one another during times of crisis. Through the lens of real-world incidents of arson and vandalism, speakers will share how dialogue, mutual aid, and shared security expertise fostered resilience and solidarity. Practical takeaways will focus on how congregations can build peer-to-peer networks that extend beyond single incidents to strengthen long-term community security and interfaith cooperation. Speakers: Rafael Brinner , Bay Area Jewish Federation's Senior Director of Community Security; Father Mesrop Ash , Parish Priest of St. John Armenian Apostolic Church in San Francisco
11:15 AM - 11:45 AM	NETWORKING BREAK	
11:45 AM - 12:30 PM	SESSION #3 — INCLUSION AND ACCESSIBILITY IN EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS Description: This session will explore recent innovations in reaching people with disabilities and access and functional needs. Panelists will discuss the latest strategies, resources, and practical tools that you can integrate into your roles to more effectively reach the whole community with life-saving emergency information. Speakers: Vance Taylor , Chief, Office of Access & Functional Needs, California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services; Claudine Jaenichen , Professor of Design, Chapman University	SESSION #3 — PREVENTING TARGETED VIOLENCE AGAINST HOUSES OF WORSHIP: INSIGHTS FROM THE U.S. SECRET SERVICE NATIONAL THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER (NTAC) Description: The U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) will present findings from research on mass attacks in public spaces and schools, with implications for faith-based organizations. The session will highlight lessons learned from past incidents and emphasize how multidisciplinary behavioral threat assessment programs can identify and manage individuals of concern early. Speaker: Kristy Domingues , Supervisory Social Science Research Specialist with the U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC)
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM	LUNCH BREAK <i>Location: See the following page for more information on the optional Lunch and Learn presentations.</i>	

TIME	EMERGENCY PUBLIC INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS (EPIC) TRACK	TARGETED VIOLENCE PREVENTION (TVP) TRACK
1:00 PM - 1:25 PM	LUNCH AND LEARN (OPTIONAL): A GUIDE TO COUNTERING FALSE AND MISINFORMATION Location: Floor 10 – Commandant’s Ballroom Description: The proliferation of false and misleading information (FMI) during emergencies poses an escalating threat to effective emergency management. This lunch-and-learn session will introduce a guided decision-making tool and four evidence-based techniques for countering the spread of FMI under both blue and gray skies. Participants will walk away with practical tools they can put into practice immediately to build community resilience and manage FMI effectively. Speaker: Lauren Hagy, Senior Research Specialist, CNA	LUNCH AND LEARN (OPTIONAL): INTRODUCTION TO THE REDUCE THE RISK CAMPAIGN Location: Floor 11 – Crystal Ballroom Description: CalOES PIO will provide an overview of the Reduce the Risk Campaign initiative. Speaker: Davina Mapes, Public Information Officer, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)
Location For EPIC Track Sessions: Floor 10 – Commandant’s Ballroom		Location For TVP Track Sessions: Floor 11 – Crystal Ballroom
1:30 PM - 3:00 PM	SESSION #4 — FROM RESEARCH TO PRACTICE: STATE OF THE ART EMERGENCY MESSAGING Description: This workshop will explore findings from recent research on emergency messaging, including message design, overalerting, and follow-up/post-alert messaging. Using a scenario, participants will collaborate to craft effective emergency alert and follow-up messages aligned with the latest in emergency communications research. Speakers: Jeannette Sutton, Associate Professor, University at Albany; Michele Wood, Professor and Chair, Cal State Fullerton	SESSION #4 — THREAT AND HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND RISK ASSESSMENT (THIRA) FOR HOUSES OF WORSHIP Description: This interactive workshop will guide participants through a Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) process designed specifically for faith communities. Attendees will work hands-on to identify priority risks, uncover preparedness gaps, and develop practical, actionable steps to strengthen resilience. The session will also provide insight into FEMA and DHS security grant opportunities—highlighting how to pursue funding for security upgrades while managing expectations around the process. Speakers: Chris Bausch, Founder, Noble Warrior Leadership Ministry; Jeff Myers, Operations Pastor & Faith Community Safety Leader; Rafael Brinner, Bay Area Jewish Federation's Senior Director of Community Security
3:00 PM - 3:30 PM	NETWORKING BREAK	
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM	SESSION #5 — PANEL DISCUSSION: BRIDGING THE ROLES OF THE PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER AND ALERT & WARNING COORDINATOR Description: The roles and responsibilities of the Public Information Officer and the Alert and Warning Operator are distinct yet closely connected. At their core, their relationship is built on a mutual understanding of each other’s expertise, strengthened by moments of job-sharing and collaborative thinking. This session will explore how the PIO and the Alert and Warning Coordinator work together during emergency messaging operations, and how this partnership can serve as a best practice for delivering timely, accurate, and accessible emergency alerts. Speakers: Moderator – Kristin Hogan, Regional Communications Manager, Bay Area UASI; Panelists – Steven Torrence, Director of Emergency Management, Marin County Office of Emergency Services; Kristi Jourdan, Director, Office of Communications & Media, Contra Costa County; Jackie Thornhill, Communications Manager, San Francisco Department of Emergency Management; Helen Fong, Public Relations Officer, San Francisco Department of Emergency Management; Brentt Blaser, Emergency Manager, Alameda County Office of Emergency Services	SESSION #5 — PANEL DISCUSSION: PREVENTING RACIALLY/ETHNICALLY MOTIVATED VIOLENT EXTREMISM (REMVE) Description: Racially and ethnically motivated violent extremism (REMVE) is one of the fastest-growing threats facing the United States, tearing at the fabric of trust and safety in our communities. Preventing such acts requires more than response — it calls for awareness, resilience, and collaboration across all parts of the community. This panel brings together perspectives from law enforcement, federal investigators, prevention experts, and community leaders to examine the motivations driving extremist violence, the challenges on the front lines, and the strategies that work to stop violence before it occurs. Speakers: Moderator – Mary Ellen Carroll, Executive Director, San Francisco Department of Emergency Management; Panelists – Antonio Flores, Acting Lieutenant, Special Victims Unit, San Francisco Police Department (SFPD); Mubin Shaikh, Exit Peer Specialist, Parents for Peace; SSA Ethan Quinn, FBI San Francisco, Civil Rights/Hate Crime Squad; Justin Lock, Executive Director, Not In Our Town - Former Head of the US DOJ Community Relations Service
4:30 PM - 4:45 PM	CLOSING REMARKS (BY TRACK)	
4:45 PM - 5:15 PM	SUMMIT HOTWASH (OPTIONAL) LOCATION: FLOOR 11 – CRYSTAL LOUNGE	

Speaker Contact Information

First	Last	Agency	Title	Email
Mesrop	Ash	St. John Armenian Church of San Francisco	Parish Priest	pastor@stjohnarmenianchurch.com
Chris	Bausch	Noble Warrior Leadership Ministry	Founder	cpbausch@yahoo.com
Brentt	Blaser	Alameda County Sheriff's Office, Office of Emergency Services	Emergency Manager	BBLaser@acgov.org
Rafael	Brinner	Bay Area Jewish Federation	Senior Director of Community Security	RafaelB@jewishfed.org
Mary Ellen	Carroll	San Francisco Department of Emergency Management	Executive Director	maryellen.carroll@sfgov.org
Kristy	Domingues	United States Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center	Supervisory Social Science Research Specialist	NA
Antonio	Flores	San Francisco Police Department	Lieutenant Special Victims Unit	antonio.flores@sfgov.org
Mary Jo	Flynn-Nevins	Sacramento County Office of Emergency Services	Chief of Emergency Services	FlynnM@saccounty.gov
Helen	Fong	San Francisco Department of Emergency Management	Public Relations Officer	helen.fong@sfgov.org
Suzanne	Frew	The Frew Group	President and Founder	Suzanne@thefrewgroup.com
Pete	Gomez	Miami-Dade County	Director of Emergency Management	pete.gomez@miamidade.gov
Desiree	Gorham	Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), San Francisco	Behavioral Analysis Unit Coordinator/ Threat Management Coordinator	DMGORHAM@fbi.gov
Lauren	Hagy	CNA	Senior Research Specialist	HagyL@cna.org
Zachary	Hamill	Sutter County Office of Emergency Management	Emergency Operations Manager	zhamill@co.sutter.ca.us
Kristin	Hogan	Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative	Regional Communications Manager	kristin.hogan@sfgov.org
Tommy	Isachsen	Santa Rosa Police Department	Lieutenant	tisachsen@srcity.org
Claudine	Jaenichen	Chapman University	Professor of Design	jaeniche@chapman.edu
Jessica	Jensen	RAND Corporation	Policy Researcher	jjensen@rand.org
Kristi	Jourdan	Contra Costa County	Director, Office of Communications & Media	Kristi.Jourdan@contracostatv.org
Mikyung	Kim-Molina	Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative	Interim General Manager	mikyung.kim-molina@sfgov.org
David	Kowalski	Los Angeles Police Department	Deputy Chief, Counter Terrorism Special Operations Bureau	33157@lapd.online

First	Last	Agency	Title	Email
David	Laub	LA County Fire Department	Hazardous Response and Special Events Coordination	David.Laub@fire.lacounty.gov
Justin	Lock	Not In Our Town/ United States Department of Justice Community Relations Service	Executive Director/ Former Head	jlock@theworkinggroup.org
Davina	Mapes	California Governor's Office of Emergency Management	Public Information Officer	Davina.Mapes@CalOES.ca.gov
Sarah	Miller	Pierce College	Associate Professor of Emergency Management	sarah@skmiller.us
John Clarke	Mills	Watch Duty	CEO	john@watchduty.org
Jeff	Myers	Daybreak Church	Executive Director, CEO, and Operations Pastor	jeffmyers@daybreakchurch.org
Michael	Pappas	San Francisco Interfaith Council	Executive Director	mgpappas.sfic@gmail.com
Bob	Quinn	Core 17 LLC	Emergency Preparedness Consultant	robert.quinn@core-17.com
Ethan	Quinn	Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), San Francisco	Supervisory Special Agent, Civil Rights/Hate Crime Squad	eaquinn@fbi.gov
Corey	Reynolds	Corey Reynolds LLC	Independent Consultant	corey@coreyreynolds.com
Jorge	Rodriguez	County of Sonoma Department of Emergency Management	Community Alert & Warning Program Manager	Jorge.rodriguez@sonoma-county.org
Mike	Sena	Northern California High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area/Northern California Regional Intelligence Center	Executive Director	msena@ncric.ca.gov
Sandra	Severns	Salvation Army	Former Deputy Director of Preparedness	srspag@yahoo.com
Mubin	Shaikh	Parents for Peace	Exit Peer Specialist	mubin@parents4peace.org
Jeannette	Sutton	University at Albany	Associate Professor	jsutton@albany.edu
Vance	Taylor	California Governor's Office of Emergency Services	Chief, Office of Access & Functional Needs	Vance.Taylor@caloes.ca.gov
Jackie	Thornhill	San Francisco Department of Emergency Management	Communications Manager	jackie.thornhill@sfgov.org
Steven	Torrence	Marin County Fire Department, Office of Emergency Management	Director of Emergency Management	Steven.Torrence@MarinCounty.gov
Michele	Wood	California State University, Fullerton	Professor and Chair	mwood@fullerton.edu

Attendee Guide

Event	Floor	Room
Registration	1	Lobby
10/28: Keynote and Plenary Sessions	2	Marines' Memorial Theatre
10/29: Emergency Public Information and Communications (EPIC) Track	10	Commandant's Ballroom
10/29: Targeted Violence Prevention (TVP) Track	11	Crystal Ballroom
Speaker Green Room	4	Suite 401

**Restrooms can be found on floors 2, 10M, 11, and 12 (Men's only)*

Summit Wi-Fi Information:

Network: MMC_ballroom

Password: LIVINGMEMORIAL1946

Please Note:

There will be photography and audio recording of specific Summit sessions; these will be used by the Bay Area UASI for program-related purposes only. Thank you.

Questions:

If you have questions, please stop by the Registration Desk in the lobby or ask anyone wearing a Summit Staff badge.

Name Badge Icon Description



Community Partner/
Non-Profit



Public Sector/Government



Private Sector

Don't forget to complete the **Summit Feedback Form**. We want to hear about your Summit experience!

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