

# Homeland Security and Emergency Management 2025 snapshot

## Who we are

The division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) at the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) helps Minnesota communities prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies and disasters.

## What we focus on

- Prepare for emergencies and disasters
- Support communities during emergencies
- Support communities recover from disasters
- Work with communities to prevent and reduce effects of future disasters
- Develop our workforce and build a more effective organization to support communities

## New leadership



HSEM welcomed its new director, **Allison Farole**, in May 2025. Farole brings over a decade of experience to the position, with prior emergency management leadership roles in Virginia and Michigan.



**Riley Slimmer** was promoted to operations and readiness bureau director in November 2025.

## New State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC)

HSEM opened a new emergency operations center in 2025. It serves as Minnesota's central coordination point, where state, local and federal agencies respond to disasters, emergencies or terrorist events. The facility is designed for self-reliance, with a large solar panel system and geothermal heating and cooling.





THIS MONTH IS  
**NATIONAL  
EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT  
AWARENESS  
MONTH**  
AUGUST 2025

## Raising awareness for emergency managers

For the first time, Governor Walz declared August as Minnesota’s Emergency Management Awareness Month: “The efforts of emergency managers across our state have helped millions of people recover, rebuild, and become more resilient in the face of adversity.”

### High-profile responses



- Activated the SEOC following the targeted shootings of Minnesota lawmakers, subsequent multi-day manhunt, and State Funeral for Melissa and Mark Hortman



- Supported City of St. Paul in response to ransomware attack that disrupted city services



- Supported City of Minneapolis following the school shooting at Annunciation Catholic School

### Severe weather and disaster responses



- 12 state-declared disasters
  - Included flooding, tornadoes, severe storms and wildfires
  - Total losses of approximately **\$24.8 million**





Governor Walz and HSEM Director Farole visit Beltrami County to thank first responders after regional storm damage.

## Operational highlights

### School Safety Center

- Trained 150+ school resource officers statewide
- Hosted statewide School Safety Training Conference
- Led safety summit serving 200+ school and parish administrators

### Emergency communications

- Conducted statewide communications exercise involving 104 stakeholders and 44 agencies
- Strengthened interoperable communications planning across agencies

### Trainings

- 15 students completed the National Emergency Management Basic Academy (NEMBA)
- 17 NEMBA instructors were added

### Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP)

- Conducted a Hostile Action-Based (HAB) exercise with Xcel Energy Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant in the new SEOC
- Hosted multi-state REP workshop with Midwest partners
- Conducted outreach and training with Tribal Nation Prairie Island Indian Community
- Trained 240+ employees at Treasure Island Resort & Casino



# FEMA grants making an impact

## Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

FEMA funding used after disasters to reduce future damage.

- 12 projects funded
- 20 projects awaiting approval

## Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)

FEMA funding used to prevent damage before disasters.

- 21 counties updated their hazard mitigation plans
- 12 more counties began their hazard mitigation plans

## Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)

FEMA funding that supports prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery mission areas.

- 97 grants awarded, totaling \$2.8 million
- 102 applications submitted for 2026

## Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)

FEMA funding for prevention and response to acts of terrorism and other threats.

- 17 Urban Area Security Initiative grants awarded, totaling \$8.1 million
- 14 State Homeland Security Program grants awarded, totaling \$3.5 million

## Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP):

FEMA funding for the protection of nonprofit organizations at high risk of terrorist threat.

- NSGP grants awarded, totaling \$3.2 million (On hold until DHS funding is approved)
- Operation Stonegarden (OPSG) grants awarded, totaling \$972,000

*For more information go to the Homeland Security and Emergency Management website*



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