Patrick C Sheehan, CEM

Biography

Patrick Sheehan serves as the Director of the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA), a role he was appointed to in May 2016, leading Tennessee's emergency management community. Mr. Sheehan also serves as the Region 4 Vice President of the National Emergency Management Association.

Sheehan advises Governor Bill Lee on emergency management policy and serves as the principal liaison between the State of Tennessee and FEMA. Since his arrival at TEMA, Mr. Sheehan has led the response and recovery efforts for the worst urban-wildland interface fire in Tennessee history. During the 2017 hurricane season, he led the effort for the largest mobilization of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) in Tennessee history to deploy resources to Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In 2019 Mr. Sheehan coordinated Tennessee's statewide response to storms and flooding on behalf of Governor Bill Lee. In 2020 Sheehan coordinated the response and recovery to the March Tornadoes, April Severe Storms and Tornadoes, May Derecho, and the Christmas Bombing in Downtown Nashville. Since March of 2020 Sheehan has served as a part of Governor Lee's COVID-19 Unified Command Group along with Dr. Lisa Piercey and Major General Jeff Holmes.

Sheehan has overseen or supported the response and recovery operations to a number of emergencies, including the worst wildfire in Tennessee history, the March 2020 tornadoes, and the Christmas Bombing in Downtown Nashville.

Director Sheehan previously served in several roles with the Ohio Emergency Management Agency from 2003-2016, where he helped to lead the state response to numerous crises and several declared emergencies. Prior to serving in emergency management, Sheehan worked in the private sector, helping to run his family's businesses.

Mr. Sheehan chairs Tennessee's State Emergency Response Council, Vice-Chairs the Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium's Board of Directors, is a member of the Nashville JTTF, Tennessee's Cyber Security Council, the Public Safety Advisory Council for FirstNet, and several additional emergency management, homeland security and public safety organizations. Sheehan is a graduate of the prestigious Executive Leaders Program offered by the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School/Center for Homeland Defense and Security. As a junior enlisted member of the US Army Reserve he served as an NBC Specialist (Nuclear, Biological, Chemical) and completed the US Army Chemical School and the Toxic Agent Training Course at the Chemical Defense Training Facility at Fort McClellan, and the US Army Airborne School at Fort Benning. He holds a bachelor's degree in business from Kennesaw State University.