



**Ms. Sima Merick**

Vice President, National Emergency Management Association  
Executive Director, Ohio Emergency Management Agency

Sima Merick touts a 27-year history with the Ohio Department of Public Safety. She began her career as a Dispatcher for the Ohio State Highway Patrol in 1985 and held other non-sworn positions within that division until 1996 where she began her career preparing the emergency management and mitigation techniques still widely utilized today.



In 2000, Merick served as a Grant Administrator in the Mitigation Branch of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, and in 2001, received promotion to the Chief of the Mitigation Branch. In 2005 she became Director of the Mitigation, Recovery & Preparedness Grants Division. In this capacity, she maintained oversight of mitigation and recovery program administration and grants, the federal homeland security grants and the fiscal section of the agency. Her entire portfolio encompassed management and responsibility for more than half a billion dollars in federal and state funds.

In 2011, Governor Kasich appointed Merick to Assistant Director of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency and she served in that role until being appointed Executive Director in June 2015. Merick began her time on the NEMA Board of Directors as Secretary in 2017 and became Vice President in 2018.

She is an acknowledged leader among her peers in other state emergency management agencies, often sought out for her expertise and knowledge in program and grant administration. Within the agency, she is sought after as a sounding board and mentor for junior staff.

Merick has a degree from the University of Akron and resides in northwest Columbus.

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