

Edward M. Laatsch, P.E.



Mr. Laatsch serves as the Director of the Planning, Safety and Building Science Division within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). With more than thirty-five years of total experience, Mr. Laatsch has worked to improve the building design and building sciences area and to create more disaster-resilient communities.

Under Mr. Laatsch's direction, the Planning, Safety and Building Science Division leads FEMA's responsibilities under the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP); the National Wind Hazard Impact Reduction Program (NWHIRP); the National Dam Safety and Security Program; the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program (NTHM); high-wind, flood, earthquake, tornado,

wildfire and other natural hazard mitigation activities in support of disaster-resistant building codes and standards; and FEMA's mitigation planning activity. Other activities within this division include development of all-hazards technical and engineering guidance documents, training and tools for predictive risk analytics.

Previously, Mr. Laatsch was Chief of the Building Science Branch at FEMA and a Research Administrator and Loss Control Superintendent for State Farm Insurance. Before that, he spent seven years with the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and the NAHB Research Center and five years working as a consulting engineer with a specialty munitions facilities design firm.

Mr. Laatsch holds an M.S. in Architecture from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Michigan, as well as being a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Virginia. In addition, Mr. Laatsch has written numerous papers and publications on residential housing technology and loss control issues over the last 15 years.