

## USING FEMA'S TOOLS TO BETTER IDENTIFY, COMMUNICATE, AND MITIGATE FLOOD RISK

*Sarah Devaney-Ice and Tucker Mahoney, FEMA*

Over the past six years, FEMA has made a significant investment in updating the Nation's flood hazard maps in coastal areas as part of its Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP) program. In fact, FEMA has funded nearly all the engineering work necessary to update flood hazards along the populated coastline of the United States. During FY16, approximately a quarter of these studies are scheduled to be issued as Preliminary or Effective Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). Throughout the multi-year coastal study process, FEMA works with states, regional entities, and communities to identify, assess, and map their flood hazards. The goal of Risk MAP is to not only map flood hazards, but also to increase awareness of flood risk and encourage communities, property owners, and others to take action to mitigate their risk.

This session will provide an overview of the flood study process, the touchpoints of community engagement, and examples of how communities are using FEMA's new Flood Risk Products to better identify, communicate, and mitigate flood risk. The new products provide an additional set of tools to augment the regulatory FIRM and Flood Insurance Study report that are produced during a coastal flood risk study. They better convey 1-percent-annual chance flood depths, inundation mapping, wave hazard severity areas, and areas of erosion risk. States, regional entities, communities, and businesses can use this suite of products for climate adaptation planning, future development planning, risk assessment of critical infrastructure or building and housing stock, and risk communication.