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[Home](#) > [About Us](#) > [Staff](#)

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Emergency Management Staff

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Emergency Management Office is comprised of eight (8) staff members under the supervision of one (1) Charlotte Fire Department Deputy Chief.

Rich Granger

Deputy Fire Chief/ Emergency Management Director

Rich Granger is the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Emergency Management Director and a Deputy Chief with the Charlotte Fire Department, overseeing Emergency Management, the Charlotte-Douglas International Airport and the Charlotte Fire Department Training Division. Chief Granger joined the department in 1988, was promoted to Captain in 1995, Battalion Chief in 2001 and Deputy Chief in 2008. He became the Emergency Management Director in 2015. Chief Granger holds an Associate of Applied Science in Fire Prevention Technology from Central Piedmont Community College and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He maintains membership in the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and the North Carolina Emergency Management Association (NCEMA).

Tim Hartsell

Battalion Chief/ Hazardous Materials Coordinator

Michael Tobin

Emergency Management Coordinator

Michael Tobin is the Emergency Management Coordinator for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Emergency Management Office. Michael has been employed with the Charlotte Fire Department since 2003. As Coordinator, he is tasked with All-Hazards Planning, Response, Recovery, and Mitigation efforts and is responsible for Emergency Support Functions (ESF) #4 Firefighting, #5 Emergency Management, #9 Search & Rescue, #10 Oil & Hazardous Materials Response and #13 Public Safety & Security. In addition, he assists in EMPG requirements, Domestic Preparedness Region 7 (DPR7) activities, special event planning, airport emergency operations, training and exercise coordination support, active assailant and mass violence programing, Homeland Security and serves as the liaison to local, state and federal agencies. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Southern New Hampshire University (1997), a Graduate Certificate in Community Preparedness and Disaster Management from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Public Health (2006), and a Masters Degree in Public Administration (MPA) with a concentration in Emergency Management from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke (2009). Mr. Tobin is an All-Hazards Incident Management Team (AHIMT) Type 3 member for the State of North Carolina as a Liaison Officer and Public Information Officer. He is also a member of the North Carolina Emergency Management Association, International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) and the North Carolina Association of Floodplain Managers (NCAFPM).

Elaney Katsafanas

Emergency Management Planner

Elaney serves as an Emergency Management Planner for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Emergency Management Office, and is tasked with all-hazards planning, response, recovery and mitigation efforts. Elaney serves as the health, medical and human services liaison for the department, and is responsible for Emergency Support Function (ESF) #6 Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing and Human Services, #8 Public Health and Medical Services, #11 Agriculture and Natural Resources, #14 Long Term Community Recovery, and #15 External Affairs. Additionally, Elaney serves as the functional lead for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg All-Hazards Advisory Committee (AHAC), the Joint Health Operations Committee (JHOC), health care facility review plans, the department's information technology programs, the CharMeck Alerts emergency notification system and the overall readiness of the Mecklenburg County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Ms. Katsafanas maintains a Bachelor of Science in Public Relations from Central Michigan University and is a graduate of the Leading Educating and Developing (LEAD) program at the University of Virginia. Elaney maintains membership in the North Carolina Emergency Management Association (NCEMA) and the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM). Elaney joined the department as a Grants Administrator in 2015, after previously serving in the public, private and non-profit sectors as a public relations, risk mitigation and crisis management professional.

David Powell

Emergency Management Planner

David Powell serves as an Emergency Management Planner for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Emergency Management Office, and is tasked with all-hazards planning, response, recovery and mitigation efforts. David serves as the infrastructure and private industry liaison for the department, and is responsible for Emergency Support Function (ESF) #1 Transportation, #2 Communications, #3 Public Works and Engineering, #11 Agriculture and Natural Resources, #12 Energy, and #14 Long Term Recovery. He also coordinates damage assessment, debris management, dam emergency action plan review and the fixed nuclear facility and radiological emergency preparedness programs.

David holds both a Master of Public Administration and Bachelor of Arts degree from North Carolina State University as well as a Graduate Certificate in Public Policy. Prior to joining Charlotte-Mecklenburg Emergency Management, he served as the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) Coordinator for North Carolina Emergency Management.

Hannah Panicco

Emergency Management Planner - Public Educator

Hannah Panicco serves as an Emergency Management Planner and Public Educator for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Emergency Management Office. As an Emergency Management Planner, Hannah is tasked with all-hazards planning, response, recovery, and mitigation efforts. Hannah is responsible for Emergency Support Function (ESF) #2 Communications, #15 External Affairs, and #16 Volunteer and Donations Management. As the Public Educator, Hannah is tasked with coordinating vital community-based emergency preparedness instruction for greater Charlotte and Mecklenburg County businesses and residents. Hannah serves as the primary educational instructor for the Charlotte Fire Department Emergency Management Office, and as such she is responsible for developing and preparing emergency preparedness programs targeted for community members, creating educational visual aids, attending and participating in professional and community meetings related to emergency preparedness, and creating initiatives to generate interest in disaster preparedness. Hannah received a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In 2017, Hannah joined the Charlotte Mecklenburg Emergency Management Office after working as an Emergency Management Program Coordinator at Central Piedmont Community College and a Training and Exercise Specialist at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Matt Brown

Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Logistics Planner

Hal Wishon

Financial Administrator - Department of Homeland Security Programs and Grants

Hal Wishon oversees Emergency Management's administrative functions including budget development and expenditure tracking. He serves as the financial controller for all grant programs associated with the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) as well as other Federal and State grant programs involving emergency response agencies in Charlotte-Mecklenburg and within the multi-county urban area. Mr. Wishon has an MPA from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNCC), a BA from Queens University in Business Administration and Computer Information Systems, and a BA from UNCC in Political Science and History. He has served with the Charlotte Fire Department/Emergency Management Office since 1986. Major disasters in which he has been involved include Hurricanes Hugo, Fran, and Floyd, the ChemWay Fire, the 1994 Airplane Crash, Steele Creek Tornado, Southside Tornado, and 25-30 Fixed Nuclear Facility Drills.

Alisha Rebman

Grants Administrator

Alisha serves as the Grants Administrator for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Emergency Management Office, overseeing all Homeland Security Grant Programs (HSGP) including the Charlotte Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG), the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and the Emergency Management Preparedness Grant Program (EMPG). Additionally, she supports projects and initiatives within the urban area's ten (10) county operational area, including oversight of the Urban Area Working Group (UAWG).

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