

Edward M. Laatsch, P.E.



Edward Laatsch is Director of the Planning, Safety and Building Science Division which 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, technical services, and post-disaster forensic engineering

activities as well as technical SME support for the agency; 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 spent: 10 years as Chief, Building Science Branch, within FEMA's Mitigation Directorate; 5 years as Research Administrator and Loss Control Superintendent for State Farm Insurance; 7 years with the National Association of Home Builders and the NAHB Research Center; 5 years as a consulting engineer including work with a specialty munitions facilities design firm. Altogether Mr. Laatsch has over thirty-five years of experience in the building design and building sciences area. He 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.