

EdwardM. 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 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 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.