



Collaborative Corner

November 2022

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPOINTED

Members and Partners,

My name is Jay Knox and it is my privilege to introduce myself as the new Executive Director of the Safeguard Iowa Partnership. I was selected by the Board of Directors in October after former Executive Director Jeff Ritzman retired at the end of August. I have been a public sector partner in the organization for over 10 years and had the opportunity to work with many of you in my previous assignments with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the Iowa National Guard. My official first day on the job was November 14th and since we've been without a director for several months, I'm doing my best to address immediate requirements while also transitioning into my new role.

I realize the last few years have been extremely demanding on all our organizations in many unique and challenging ways. One of my first priorities will be to reengage with each of our members and longtime sponsors to evaluate your current needs from our partnership. I want to focus on the activities and training that you value to build, sustain, and improve your disaster preparedness capabilities. I also want to hear your ideas and suggestions for our continued development and growth as a trusted and beneficial partner to your organization.

We are very excited to be working closely with Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management on Emergency Support Function (ESF) # 14 – Private Sector Coordination and the new initiatives from the Director and his staff on our Public Private Partnerships (P3) programs in Iowa. I will have updates on those in the near future.

I look forward to speaking with you all very soon. Take care and thank you in advance for your support!

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Jay Knox - Executive Director Safeguard Iowa Partnership

Jay Knox was selected by the Board of Directors as the Executive Director of the Safeguard Iowa Partnership on November 14, 2022, after being a public sector partner in the organization for over 10 years.

Jay has over 31 years of uniformed military service. A graduate of the United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, he served over 10 years on active duty in various airborne, command, staff, and overseas assignments in Iraq,

Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and South Korea. He left active duty to become a Federal Agent with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service but continued his service in the Iowa Army National Guard with multiple assignments in the Joint Operations Center/State Emergency Operations Center during various domestic emergencies, disaster responses, and national level exercises. Jay commanded Iowa's Joint Forces Headquarters and Military Academy/Regional Training Institute before retiring as a Colonel in 2017 as the Chief of the Joint Staff.

A federal agent for over 23 years, Jay worked numerous assignments including Dangerous Mail, Violent Crimes, Homeland/National Security Investigations and was the Threat Management and Firearms Training Coordinator for 11 states. A certified Dangerous Mail Investigations Specialist, he responded to incidents involving suspicious mail, hazardous substances, and improvised explosives. Jay was also a Violent Crimes Specialist and responded nationwide to homicides and major violent crimes involving USPS employees.

Jay has over 20 years of fire service and emergency management experience as a nationally certified Arson Investigator, Fire Captain, Fire Engineer, Firefighter I, Crash/Victim Extrication and Rescue Specialist. As a firefighter/rescue specialist, he worked rescue and recovery inside the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building following the terrorist bombing in Oklahoma City, OK.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY, graduated from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth, KS and has a Master's degree in Strategic Studies from the Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, PA.

Jay is a member of the International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators, the International Association of Homicide Investigators and numerous veterans, church, and civic organizations. He lives in Urbandale, IA with his wife, Masami. They have a daughter in college and a son in high school.

Training Opportunity Nov. 29th, 2022

Tomorrow, November 29, 2022, at 11:30 AM, our partners at Polk County Emergency Management are fortunate to have former FEMA Region 7 director, Paul Taylor, as their guest for their lunch and learn topic "Private Sector Engagement in Disaster Response". Paul has been a tremendous supporter of Safeguard Iowa Partnership and its mission.

I know that this is extremely short notice. If you are not able to attend in person, Polk County Emergency Management is allowing us to offer this session via ZOOM in addition to their in-person presentation.

If you are able to attend in person, [please register here](#). The in-person presentation will be held at 1907 Carpenter Avenue, Des Moines.

If you choose to attend via zoom, please use this [LINK](#).

Don't miss out on this opportunity to hear from Paul and his take on the public/private partnership collaboration for a better disaster response!

We need and appreciate your continued support!

The Safeguard Iowa Partnership is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) corporation that began as a voluntary coalition of the state's business and government leaders, who shared a commitment to strengthen the capacity of the state to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters through the collaboration of private sector business and public sector agencies.

Created in 2007, the Partnership empowers businesses to integrate business resources, expertise, and plans with those of government during all stages of disaster management. The government cannot and should not be the only responders in a disaster situation, as the private sector has a wealth of knowledge and assets that may be needed during an emergency.

Public-Private Partnerships (P3) help to establish relationships prior to incidents when familiarity with each other's capabilities and response procedures are critical. These partnerships enable the public and private sector to develop all-hazard plans to pool resources/information, coordinate response/recovery efforts and share training/exercise opportunities.

Safeguard Iowa Partnership is dependent upon the generous financial support we get from our members, like-minded individuals/organizations, and grant funding. Without your support, we could not continue to provide the training and educational opportunities, information sharing and resource coordination that help make disaster preparedness, response and recovery more efficient and effective in Iowa.

We appreciate your continued support. To provide financial support for this year, please Click [HERE](#). Thank You!

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