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Speaker Biographies/Contact Information

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Michael Sicilia is Assistant Deputy Director, Office of Public Affairs at the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). He was the H1N1 Public Affairs Coordinator and lead Public Information Officer for the state Joint Information Center (JIC) during the swine flu pandemic. Previously, Mr. Sicilia was Public Affairs Manager with the California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA). From 2007-2009, he served as project manager of the Public Officials Crisis Communications program, which trains and exercises elected officials on their crucial role as crisis communicators in catastrophic emergencies. He served in management roles in the State Operations Center (JIC) and the Joint Field Office in the 2007 Southern California Wildfires. From 1999-2003 he was Deputy Director of Communications for Gov. Gray Davis. No stranger to emergency communications, Mr. Sicilia was the governor's liaison to the JIC during the Southern California Wildfires of 2003. A former broadcast journalist, from 1997-1999 Mr. Sicilia was state capitol reporter for The California Report, and heard on NPR stations statewide. Mr. Sicilia also covered Sacramento and the state capitol for KCBS-AM, San Francisco and KFBK-AM, Sacramento. Mr. Sicilia has won several awards for his coverage of election politics, the Los Angeles Riots, the Polly Klaas Abduction case, and the O.J. Simpson murder trial, among others.