

IAEM Recommendations for Action During the First 100 Days of the Administration of President-Elect Biden

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Critical Activities for FEMA and the Nationwide Emergency Management Enterprise

1 The President-Elect should announce his nominee for FEMA Administrator before the end of this year. This person must possess impeccable credentials and experience in comprehensive emergency management at the local and state levels. The President must announce that this person will be THE person responsible for coordinating the ongoing COVID-19 response AND all hazards Incident Coordination across the federal government.

The Administrator must be a leader who views the role of FEMA as a partner with state and local emergency management professionals and meets the qualifications set forth in the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act (PL—109-295).

2 Eliminate parallel response and recovery structures within the federal government including the White House that duplicate effort and confuse response and recovery at all levels of government in the nation. Upon assuming office in January, the President should formally designate FEMA as THE lead agency for all hazards Incident Coordination across the federal government enterprise to include Stafford Act and non-Stafford Act events.

The five mission areas of emergency management (prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery) must remain intact within FEMA.

3 Advise the FEMA Administrator to meet quarterly with the IAEM-USA President to maintain an open line of communication with the organization representing all facets of the emergency management profession at the local level, where disaster plans are executed.



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Ongoing COVID-19 Response and Recovery Activities

1 Clearly define the roles of HHS, public health “emergency preparedness” agencies, FEMA, and state and local Emergency Management during this pandemic and all future public health emergencies based on the above.

This includes clarification of roles and a concentrated effort to reduce duplication of responsibility and work within the HHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response; HHS CDC Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response; HHS FDA Office of Emergency Operations; the National Security Council's CBRNE unit and others; to create clear and consistent unity of effort.

2 Assure Funding for State and Local Government Response and Recovery Efforts

- Approve outstanding requests for 100% federal funding to states for costs related to the COVID-19 event.
- Extend the incident period until June 30, 2021 with an evaluation to be conducted and announced no later than June 15th as to whether it is necessary to extend further. There should be no gaps in funding during the evaluation period.
- Remove restrictions from the FEMA Public Assistance Program (PA) COVID-19 Guidance dated September 15, 2020 which narrowly defines Category B Emergency Protective Measures and what entity can execute such measures. Clarify that all Personal Protective Equipment purchases for public health and first responders are eligible under Public Assistance during this incident.
- Extend Title 32 eligibility for the National Guard through the duration of the incident period, in addition to the above.
- Prior to the end of the year, announce an extension of eligibility for use of current CARES Act funding through June 30, 2021.
- Provide additional direct funding through a second stimulus package.

3 Reinstate the Administrator of FEMA as a designated member of the President’s cabinet as provided for in PL 109-295.

Additional “First Actions”

1 Direct better understanding and communication between local government and other appropriate jurisdictions with FEMA by requiring twice-yearly meetings (virtual or in person) between FEMA Regional Administrators and IAEM-USA Regional leadership.

2 Support the professionalization of emergency management by:

- committing additional resources to education and training at EMI and CHDS;
- prioritizing certification for emergency management practitioners to expand and sustain qualified workforce capacity through the Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) Program; and
- incentivizing all levels of emergency management programs to meet the professional standard established by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP).

3 Set aside the full eligible amount of 6% of disaster costs in the previous year for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program

4 Protect the use of the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) for its intended purpose of providing disaster response and recovery assistance to state and local governments by opposing efforts to redirect funds to other departments and agencies for activities that were not intended to be supported by the Stafford Act.

5 Direct that FEMA will confer with emergency management stakeholders across all disciplines through both IAEM and NEMA in the early development of new policies and guidance, as well as revisions to existing documents.