

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS FOR FEMA/DHS

PRESENTED BY THE
INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION
OF EMERGENCY
MANAGERS TO THE
TRANSITION TEAM
OF PRESIDENT-ELECT
DONALD TRUMP

The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to promoting the “Principles of Emergency Management” and to representing those professionals whose goals are saving lives and protecting property and the environment during emergencies and disasters.

IAEM strongly believes the core mission of DHS is to prevent the next terrorism attack and secure our borders. The core mission of FEMA is to deal with the consequences of all hazards, including those from a terrorist attack, should prevention fail. To that end, the 6,000 members of IAEM respectfully submit the following suggestions and urge President-Elect Trump and the Presidential Transition Team to consider them as they make decisions about who the next leader of FEMA will be.



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FEMA ADMINISTRATOR

- Nominate the Administrator of FEMA in the first round of nominees. The position is critical to the nation's ability to be prepared for a disaster that can happen at any time.
- Nominate an Administrator possessing unquestioned credentials and experience in comprehensive emergency management, a leader who views the role of FEMA as a partner with state and local stakeholders.

POLICY PRIORITIES

- Rescind Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5). This directive, issued on Feb. 28, 2003, established a single, comprehensive national incident management system. HSPD-5 has been superseded by the Post Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act (PL 109-295) and is no longer needed.
- Reinstate the Administrator of FEMA as a designated member of the President's cabinet as provided for in PL 109-295.
- Increase funding for the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) to deliver high quality emergency management training through EMI's academies. The pending appropriation for EMI for FY 2017 is \$20.5 million, the same amount as FY 2016.
- 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 amend the Stafford Act to allow redirection of funds to other departments and agencies for federal activities.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- The FEMA Administrator must have the authority to coordinate federal government disaster response on behalf of the President, with the elevated role as principal advisor to the President for emergency management. This authority is critical for effective disaster management and coordination of the entire federal government.
- All functions of the emergency management cycle (preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation) must remain intact within FEMA. Duplicate offices should not be created in other parts of DHS or other federal agencies.
- The administration should continue to build emergency management capability and infrastructure at the state and local levels by increasing funding for the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) in the President's FY 2018 budget request. EMPG, the "backbone" of local government emergency management, has been appropriated \$350 million annually since FY 2014 which should be increased as soon as it is feasible to do so.



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