



Mission and Organization

MISSION

Since its founding in 1979, the mission of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has been clear: to prepare for, mitigate against, respond to, and help individuals and communities recover from natural and man-made disasters. FEMA was established through consolidation into one agency of the emergency management functions formerly administered by five different federal agencies.

Upon becoming Director of FEMA in February 2001, one of Director Allbaugh's highest priorities was to assess how the Agency was accomplishing its mission and to chart a course for the future. In July 2002, FEMA issued a new Strategic Plan for FY 2003 and beyond, that established a new-vision and anticipated the transition into the Department of Homeland Security. To achieve its new vision of a "nation prepared," FEMA will work to prepare the nation for disasters by encouraging individuals, governmental entities, and public and private groups at all levels to become informed of the risks they face, to make decisions that help keep people, property, and institutions out of harm's way, and to possess the capability and knowledge needed to act when disasters occur.

The vision and mission will be achieved through a series of goals focused around FEMA's lines of business that build a strong internal foundation based on human capital development and performance-based management, and which meet customer needs as follows:

- **GOAL 1. Reduce loss of life and property.**
- **GOAL 2. Minimize suffering and disruption caused by disasters.**
- **GOAL 3. Prepare the Nation to address the consequences of terrorism.**
- **GOAL 4. Serve as the Nation's portal for emergency management information and expertise.**
- **GOAL 5. Create a motivating and challenging work environment for employees.**
- **GOAL 6. Make FEMA a world-class enterprise.**

WHO WE REPORT TO

In addition to the President, the Agency reports to a myriad of committees and subcommittees spread throughout each chamber of the Congress. The main disaster work of the Agency comes under the purview of the Transportation Committee in the House, and the Environment and Public Works Committee in the Senate. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) oversight is by the House and Senate Banking Committees. The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) oversight comes from the House Science Committee, and Senate Commerce Committee. Interest in FEMA matters also comes from the House Government Reform Committee. Some of the most diligent and consistent oversight of all FEMA programs comes annually from the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

HOW WE ARE ORGANIZED

FEMA's organizational structure mirrors the functions that take place in the life cycle of emergency management:

- mitigation;
- preparedness;
- response and recovery.

FEMA also contains the U.S. Fire Administration, which supports the nation's fire service and first responders, and the Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration (FIMA) that operates the NFIP, and which provides flood insurance to property owners nationwide. (See the Organizational Chart on page 10 and the Regional Map on page 11.)

THE PEOPLE OF FEMA

FEMA has more than 2,900 full-time employees working at FEMA headquarters in Washington, DC, at regional and area offices across the country, at the Mount Weather Emergency Operations Center in Virginia, and at the National Emergency Training Center in Maryland. In a catastrophic disaster, as many as 4,000 temporary and reserve employees, other federal agency personnel, and volunteers may join the response and recovery team.

RESOURCES TO ACCOMPLISH THE MISSION

FEMA's appropriations support many activities that are vital either to our national security or to the nation's ability to cope



As of end FY 2002

with various disasters or emergencies. FEMA is committed to demonstrating compassion for disaster victims, and at the same time helping these victims reduce the potential impact from future disasters. In FY 2002, FEMA continued to support programs that integrated an all-hazards approach to developing capabilities at all levels of government and in the private sector. Our appropriations allow the Agency to continue to provide flexibility for states to target grant funds to meet their specific emergency management priorities, and to improve and maintain state and local capabilities and programs.

FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund includes an annual appropriation of \$664 million and \$8.0 billion in supplemental funds. During FY 2002 nearly \$1.0 billion in emergency contin-

gency funds were also released by the President for disaster response and recovery. These funds were used to respond to the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon and were used for activities associated with efficient and effective disaster response and recovery actions.

FEMA's appropriation of approximately \$844 million for Emergency Management Planning and Assistance provides resources for the following activities:

- Developing and maintaining an integrated operational capability to respond to and recover from the consequences of a disaster. This is accomplished through partnerships with other federal agencies, state and local governments, volunteer organizations, and the private sector.

- Coordinating, integrating, and implementing preparedness, technical assistance, assessment, and exercise programs to effectively develop, build, and maintain a knowledgeable, professional, and prepared emergency management capability that is capable of saving lives, responding to and recovering from terrorist incidents and other threats, and mitigating the economic impact of disasters.
- Enhancing the nation's fire prevention and arson control capabilities, supporting fire and emergency medical service personnel through research and information dissemination, and providing training programs through the National Fire Academy.
- Supporting urban, suburban, and rural fire departments across the country through grants for training, equipment, vehicles, and fire prevention programs.

- Supporting Agency logistic, security, and health and safety requirements.
 - Providing information technology resources such as, automated data processing, telecommunications, and information services and systems necessary to accomplish the Agency's mission.
 - Developing, coordinating, and implementing policies, plans, and programs to mitigate the long-term risk to life and property from hazards such as floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, and dam failures.
 - Supporting FEMA's national security program, public information program, and financial management system.
- FEMA's salaries and expenses appropriation of approximately \$264 million provides the salaries and related expenses required to accomplish the Agency mission, vision, and goals.

Federal Emergency Management Agency Regional Map

