



**Statement of Subcommittee Chairman Dan Donovan (R-NY)  
Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications Subcommittee**

*“The Future of FEMA: Recommendations of Former Administrators”  
February 28, 2017*

Remarks as Prepared

Today’s hearing is the second in a series of hearings on the future of FEMA and an effort to help set the next Administrator up for success. Earlier this month, the Subcommittee received testimony from FEMA’s stakeholders to hear first-hand about the critical relationship between FEMA and first responders at the state and local level.

FEMA’s success is directly related to the relationships the agency has with state and local partners to promote a culture of preparedness within communities. Part one of this series of hearings reinforced the need for an experienced emergency manager to lead FEMA.

Today’s distinguished and weather-tested witnesses know better than anyone the significant transformation FEMA has made in achieving and maintaining national preparedness and response capabilities over the past 12 years. Both administrators were responsible for implementing about 350 individual requirements enacted by Congress in the Post Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act.

With the tools Congress gave them, they took steps to ensure FEMA developed and implemented the complex National Preparedness System made up of federal, state, local, private, and non-profit emergency management partners. Significant resources have been invested at all levels of government to reach the current level of national preparedness. As we move forward, those in positions of authority have an obligation to build on the critical progress that has been made.

This Subcommittee has consistently followed FEMA’s progress. Without strong leadership in place, FEMA would not have achieved the level of transformation currently in place. The FEMA of 2005 is not the FEMA of 2017, and that is a very good thing.

Looking to the future, and working with FEMA, its stakeholders, and our colleagues in Congress, it is this Subcommittee’s intention to ensure the FEMA of 2027 is continuing to make the United States safer and stronger.

Those watching this hearing know that the threats to the United States continue to grow and evolve. Since our last hearing, the number of major disaster declarations this year has nearly doubled. We must ensure that the investments we make today will work to better address the threats and hazards we face tomorrow.

Whether it is ensuring first responders have the necessary training to prevent a terrorist attack with mass casualties, like we saw in San Bernardino, or notifying communities to prepare for the next Superstorm Sandy, FEMA must remain at the top of its game.

We are fortunate to have Administrator Fugate and Administrator Paulison here with us this afternoon. We look forward to hearing their insights and lessons learned that can be shared with the next leader of FEMA.

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