



**FEMA**

W-09010

March 4, 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR: Write Your Own (WYO) Principal Coordinators  
and the NFIP Servicing Agent

FROM: WYO Clearinghouse

SUBJECT: White House Announces FEMA Nominee

Attached is a copy of a White House press release issued today identifying Craig Fugate, Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, as President Barack Obama's intended nominee to lead the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Please distribute this information to all within your organization.

cc: Vendors, IBHS, EIPNC, Government Technical Representative

Suggested Routing: All Departments

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 4, 2009

**President Obama Announces His Intent to Nominate Craig Fugate as FEMA Administrator**

Fugate Will Appear With DHS Secretary Napolitano Tomorrow in New Orleans

WASHINGTON – Today, President Obama announced his intent to nominate the Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, Craig Fugate to be his FEMA Administrator.

On the nomination of Craig Fugate, **President Obama** said, "From his experience as a first responder to his strong leadership as Florida's Emergency Manager, Craig has what it takes to help us improve our preparedness, response and recovery efforts and I can think of no one better to lead FEMA. I'm confident that Craig is the right person for the job and will ensure that the failures of the past are never repeated."

Fugate will join Homeland Security Secretary Napolitano for an event in New Orleans tomorrow. More details to follow.

Department of Homeland Security **Secretary Napolitano** said, "FEMA must have experienced leadership to succeed in its challenging mission. Craig Fugate is no stranger to emergency management or to FEMA. He is one of the most respected emergency managers in the nation, and the work he's accomplished in Florida serves as a model for other states to follow. He will be a tremendous asset to FEMA and its employees, and I look forward to working with him."

**Craig Fugate, Nominee for FEMA Administrator**

As the Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, Mr. Fugate oversees an agency with 138 full time staff. The Division coordinates disaster response, recovery, preparedness and mitigation efforts with each of the state's 67 counties and local governments. In September 2003, the Florida Emergency Management Program became the first state emergency management program in the nation to receive full accreditation from the Emergency Management Accreditation Program.

From volunteer firefighter, Paramedic, to Lieutenant with Alachua County Fire Rescue, his 15 year career in local government included serving 10 years as the Emergency Manager for Alachua County, Florida.

In May of 1997, he was appointed Chief of the Bureau of Preparedness and Response with the Florida Division of Emergency Management. Over the next four years, the State of Florida faced numerous disasters while continuing to build a nationally recognized emergency management program.

In October of 2001, Mr. Fugate was appointed by Governor Bush as Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management. With the events of September 11, 2001, the Division was tasked with the role of managing the Federal Homeland Security funding and developing Florida's Domestic Security Strategy with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Florida's program is recognized as a model for other states.

In 2004, Florida was impacted by 4 major land falling hurricanes (Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne) setting a record in both numbers of storms as well as damages for the State of Florida.

In 2005, Florida was again impacted by 4 hurricanes with Hurricane Dennis and Wilma striking as major hurricanes (Category 3 or greater). 2005 also saw Florida's largest mutual aid response to another state due to impacts of Hurricane Katrina along the Mississippi Coast, over 7000 responders from state and local agencies provided assistance to the State of Mississippi and local communities, additional resources were sent to the State of Louisiana.

In December 2006, Governor Crist reappointed Fugate as Director, the role he continues today.

Director Fugate has served as the State Coordinating Officer in 23 Declared State Emergencies, 11 of which were Presidential Declared Disasters totaling over 4.5 billion in federal assistance.

Fugate is a native of Jacksonville, Florida.

###