



Robert Welch

Deputy Regional Administrator – FEMA Region III

Robert Welch is the Deputy Regional Administrator for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region III office in Philadelphia, Pa. He assumed his duties on September 7, 2010.

Mr. Welch served as Acting Regional Administrator from July 2, 2010 until his most recent appointment. Previously, he held the title of Acting Deputy Regional Administrator from March through July 2010.

As the Deputy Regional Administrator, he assists the Regional Administrator in overseeing and coordinating FEMA's all-hazards preparedness and emergency management efforts in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. These efforts include developing, implementing and executing FEMA's programs and initiatives in close coordination with a strong team of partners from all levels of government, volunteer and faith-based groups, and the business community.

He served as the Mission Support Division Director (previously Management Division) from January 2008 through March 2010. In that capacity, he managed the regional budget and fiscal requirements, grants, acquisition, personnel, safety/security functions, and information management/technology programs that support regional and field facilities as well as FEMA's state and local partners.

Mr. Welch has more than 25 years of experience in emergency management at all levels of government, twenty of which have been with FEMA. Prior to his role as the Mission Support Division Director, he served as director of the Office of National Preparedness. There, he was responsible for the implementation of the National Response Plan (now known as the National Response Framework), the National Incident Management System and other related preparedness initiatives. He oversaw the planning section, responsible for maintaining situational awareness and identifying capabilities, vulnerabilities and current operations. Mr. Welch has also served as the FEMA Region III's Finance and Administration Branch Chief, managing multi-year budgets and disaster funding.

Before joining FEMA, Mr. Welch worked for the emergency management consulting firm Research Alternatives as a liaison to state and local governments. He then joined the Delaware Division of Emergency Planning and Operations—which is known today as the Delaware Emergency Management Agency—conducting training exercises and acting as a liaison between the state and FEMA.

Mr. Welch holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Delaware.