

Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator Named to Lead Federal Family Efforts after Hurricane Harvey

Release Date: Tháng 9 1, 2017

WASHINGTON – Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator Brock Long names Michael Byrne, FEMA field operations directorate assistant administrator, as Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator (FDRC) for recovery in the areas impacted by Hurricane Harvey. Byrne has more than 30 years of experience in disaster management and recovery program execution, including serving as the Federal Coordinating Officer for Hurricane Sandy in New York and the 2011 Alabama tornadoes.

Byrne will work under the direction of the Federal Coordinating Officer Kevin Hannes and State Coordinating Officer/Governor's Authorized Representative Nim Kidd, and be responsible for facilitating disaster recovery coordination and collaboration between federal, tribal, state, and local governments, the private sector, and voluntary, faith-based and community organizations. This role will involve bringing together a team of federal agencies to lead the complex recovery challenges of Hurricane Harvey, leveraging all available resources in support of state and local recovery effort. Areas of focus will include:

1. **Housing**, coordinated by the **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**, to develop adequate, affordable, and accessible housing solutions for Hurricane Harvey survivors.
2. **Infrastructure Systems**, coordinated by the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**, to efficiently facilitate the restoration of infrastructure systems and services to support viable, sustainable communities and improve resilience to, and protection from, future hazards.
3. **Economic Recovery**, coordinated by the **U.S. Department of Commerce**, to assist with sustaining or restoring businesses and employment in the affected area, and developing economic opportunities in these communities;



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4. **Health and Human Services**, led by the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**, to support locally led recovery efforts to address public health, health care facilities and coalitions, and essential human services;
5. **Natural and Cultural Resources**, led by the **Department of Interior**, will work with communities wishing to preserve, protect and restore natural and cultural resources—such as historic structures—during recovery; and
6. **Community Planning and Capacity Building**, coordinated by **FEMA**, to facilitate support among a variety of partners for the planning, capacity, and resilience building capabilities needed by local or tribal governments following this disaster.

These federal agencies—and the many others who will assist their efforts— will work together with a singular focus of restoring functional and resilient communities and local economies throughout that long term recovery process.

The federal government continues to be focused on protecting the lives and safety of those in affected areas after Hurricane Harvey. For more information about FEMA, the federal response, and resources available for disaster survivors, visit www.fema.gov/hurricane-harvey.

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FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from and mitigate all hazards.

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