



FEMA

Eric Tolbert: Director, Response Division

Eric Tolbert was appointed director of the Response Division of the Emergency Preparedness & Response Directorate/FEMA, in the newly created Department of Homeland Security, in March 2003. Mr. Tolbert is responsible for the planning and execution of the federal government's response to major disasters and emergencies. The Response Division ensures federal readiness and manages all-hazards emergency operations through the division's National Interagency Emergency Operations Center. The Response Division also manages the National Disaster Medical System, Mobile Emergency Response Support Detachments, and Territorial Logistics Centers.

Mr. Tolbert started with FEMA in March 2002 as the deputy director of the Office of National Preparedness, coordinating federal efforts to assist state and local emergency management and emergency response organizations.

Before joining FEMA, Mr. Tolbert was director of the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management, where he developed and managed the state's comprehensive emergency management system. He oversaw disaster response and recovery operations for North Carolina after Hurricane Floyd brought the worst flooding in the state's history in 1999. He also organized the division under the Incident Command System structure, instituted intergovernmental pre-planning to expedite the delivery of critical disaster resources, expanded the state's involvement in floodplain mapping, and managed the nation's second largest hazard mitigation grant program.

He began his emergency management career in 1976 as a paramedic in North Carolina, and later became emergency services director for that state's Caldwell County. He then was named state emergency management area coordinator, and later assistant director. Mr. Tolbert then moved to the Florida Division of Emergency Management, where he was preparedness and response bureau chief for four years before returning to North Carolina as state director of emergency management.

A native of Lenoir, N.C., Mr. Tolbert attended Pfeiffer College in Misenheimer, N.C. He has served as president of the National Emergency Management Association, chairman of the North Carolina Emergency Response Commission, member of FEMA's Urban Search and Rescue Advisory Committee and a member of the Emergency Management Institute's Board of Visitors.

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