

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Fiscal Year 2001 was a watershed year for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). We responded to 50 major disasters, 15 declared emergencies, and 36 Fire Suppression Events events. Of course, we also led the response to the September 11th terrorist attacks and have since taken on new responsibilities for Homeland Security. As we look toward the growing challenges of the future, it's important that we enhance our accountability to the Administration and the American people. With that in mind, I'm pleased to present FEMA's *Fiscal Year 2001 Performance and Accountability Report*.



Prior to September 11th, FEMA moved forward with a realignment plan to streamline our internal organization. We responded to the Seattle-area earthquake, floods, Tropical Storm Allison, and major storms around the country. At the President's request, we created the Office of National Preparedness to develop prevention, preparation, and response strategies for threats posed by Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Since September 11th, FEMA has accepted its new challenges. We have redoubled our focus on First Responders—the lynchpins of emergency management. We are developing a Strategic Plan to articulate our new goals and make our operations as transparent and accountable as possible. Finally, we are working closely with the new Office of Homeland Security to develop nationwide response plans for terrorist threats.

All of our new responsibilities have been met—and will continue to be met—without neglecting FEMA's core disaster management operations. We will continue to work with states and local governments to build up their capabilities and to work within the federal government to make our programs more efficient and successful. This report outlines the progress we've made in 2001 and reflects FEMA's commitment to meeting the new challenges facing the Agency.

While our perspective on the world has changed since September 11th, our responsibility to deliver timely and effective emergency services to the American people never will.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Joe M. Allbaugh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Joe M. Allbaugh  
Director