

Robert J. Fenton
Senior Official Performing the Duties of the FEMA Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency



Robert J. Fenton Jr. is serving as the Senior Official Performing the Duties of the FEMA Administrator. Mr. Fenton was appointed FEMA Region IX Regional Administrator in July 2015. Concurrent with his appointment, Mr. Fenton served as the Acting FEMA Administrator from January to June 2017. Prior to his current role, Mr. Fenton served in various executive leadership roles at FEMA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. from 2009-2015, including serving as the Assistant Administrator for Response and the Deputy Associate Administrator for the Office of Response and Recovery. In these capacities, he was instrumental in crafting the restructuring of both organizations and developing several initiatives that continue to drive federal emergency management today. Mr. Fenton led the Agency's development and implementation of Presidential Policy Directive (PPD)-8, the National Response Framework, the overhaul of the Agency's disaster workforce, the grants modernization initiative, and established FEMA Corps. He also led whole community catastrophic planning, doctrine development, and advancement of large-scale intra- and interagency exercises in concert with our state and territory partners.

Since joining FEMA in 1996, Mr. Fenton responded to more than 100 Presidentially declared disasters, including the 9/11 World Trade Center terrorist attacks, Hurricane Katrina, 2004 Florida hurricanes, super typhoons Pongsona, Mangkhut, and Yutu, the Kilauea volcano eruption, seven California wildfires, including the largest in the Nation's history, and as the Federal Coordinating Officer for the COVID-19 response in four states, three territories, and more than 150 federally-recognized tribes across eight time-zones.

Prior to joining FEMA, Mr. Fenton was first introduced to large-scale disaster operations while supporting humanitarian relief efforts. He deployed to Central Africa as a lead member of the U.S. emergency response relief effort to bring lifesaving assistance to Rwandan refugees.

Mr. Fenton is a fifth generation San Franciscan. He majored in Business Communications at U.C. Davis and is a graduate of the Capstone and Pinnacle programs at National Defense University.