



Albert Ashwood

***Director, Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma***



Albert Ashwood was appointed Director of the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management (OEM) in August 1997. He joined the state in 1988, and has served the department in various positions including Deputy Director from 1995 to 1997.

In his tenure with OEM, Albert has overseen the distribution and administration of over \$1 billion in federal and state aid following dozens of presidentially declared disasters, including the terrorist bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building on April 19, 1995. Following the bombing, he was first on the scene for the department, arriving approximately 25 minutes after the explosion. He led the department's forward operations for the first three days of the incident before turning his attention to the administration of recovery efforts.

Because of his experience with the Oklahoma City bombing and at the request of New York Governor George Pataki, Albert spent two weeks at ground zero helping establish and implement debris removal operations related to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack. Albert was selected by former Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge to serve as a member of the National Response Plan/National Incident Management System (NRP/NIMS) State and Local Working Group. He represented emergency management officials nationwide as the group worked to enhance the ability of the United States to manage domestic incidents and emergencies.

Albert completed the Executive Leadership Program at the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security. He was one of 27 graduates to complete the program that brought together officials from across the nation and from all levels of government and the private sector to explore strategies and policies for homeland security.

Albert served on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Advisory Council (NAC). The Council advises the FEMA Administrator on preparedness and emergency management issues. It was developed after passage of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 and instituted to ensure effective and ongoing coordination of the federal preparedness, protection, response, recovery and mitigation for natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters.

Albert also served as President of the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA). He has received numerous awards and accolades, including a Commendation from President Bill Clinton for his work in the Oklahoma City bombing. Albert was the first recipient of the Governor's Humanitarian Award for efforts following the May 1999 tornadoes and has received numerous citations for developing the "Oklahomans Can Survive" Safe Room Rebate Program. He also served as contributing author of the Heritage Foundation's report to Congress on the issue of Homeland Security.