

WILLIAM “CRAIG” FUGATE

Former FEMA Administrator | National Emergency Management Leader

Gainesville, FL | 850-544-4493 | craig@craigfugate.com | linkedin.com/in/craigfugateconsultingllc

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Nationally recognized emergency management executive with more than four decades of leadership across local, state, and federal government. Served as Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (2009–2017), directing federal response to 500+ Presidential disaster declarations and modernizing FEMA's doctrine, policy, and operational posture.

Today advises Fortune 500 companies, utilities, universities, and governments on resilience strategy, disaster policy, risk governance, and emerging applications of artificial intelligence in emergency management.

Key themes: Whole Community | Survivors as First Responders | Risk Underpricing | Waffle House Index

CAREER IMPACT SUMMARY

- Led FEMA through the nation's largest disasters: Hurricane Sandy, Hurricane Matthew, the Joplin and Moore tornadoes, and the 2016 Louisiana floods.
- Oversaw more than \$19 billion in preparedness grants and more than \$7 billion in hazard mitigation funding — a combined \$26B+ in disaster preparedness and resilience investment.
- Directed more than 700 national exercises across 47 states, engaging more than 40 million participants.
- Streamlined FEMA's policy inventory from more than 2,000 to fewer than 200, improving clarity and operational speed.
- Implemented PKEMRA reforms, advancing catastrophic planning and survivor-centered assistance.
- Directed Florida's response to the historic 2004–2005 hurricane seasons, including the largest EMAC mutual-aid deployment in state history.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Administrator | *Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Washington, D.C.* May 2009 – Jan 2017

- Presidential appointee confirmed by the U.S. Senate.
- Directed federal response to more than 500 major disasters and emergencies, including Hurricane Sandy, Hurricane Matthew, and the Joplin and Moore tornadoes.
- Established FEMA's whole community doctrine, positioning survivors and local communities as the first line of response.
- Oversaw more than \$19 billion in preparedness grants and more than \$7 billion in hazard mitigation assistance.
- Led more than 700 national exercises, strengthening readiness across 47 states.
- Reduced FEMA's policy inventory from more than 2,000 to fewer than 200, modernizing agency governance.
- Implemented PKEMRA reforms, improving catastrophic planning, state-federal coordination, and survivor assistance.

Director | *Florida Division of Emergency Management, Tallahassee, FL* Oct 2001 – May 2009

- Appointed by Governor Jeb Bush.
- State Coordinating Officer for 11 Presidential disasters, managing more than \$4 billion in federal assistance.
- Directed Florida's response to the unprecedented 2004–2005 hurricane seasons (Charley, Frances, Ivan, Jeanne, Dennis, Katrina, Wilma).
- Led the largest EMAC mutual-aid deployment in Florida history.

Bureau Chief, Preparedness & Response | *Florida Division of Emergency Management, Tallahassee, FL*
May 1997 – Sept 2001

Emergency Manager | *Alachua County, Florida* Sept 1989 – April 1997

- Began career as a volunteer firefighter and paramedic.

CONSULTING

President and Principal Consultant | *Craig Fugate Consulting, LLC*

2017 – Present

Advises corporations, utilities, universities, and government agencies on:

- Emergency management and resilience strategy
- Disaster policy and risk governance
- AI applications in public safety and emergency management

Engagements include policy advisory work, keynote speaking, and subject-matter expertise. Does not engage in lobbying or contingency-fee representation. Regular contributor to national media on hurricanes, disaster response, and resilience.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Corporate Boards

- Pacific Gas and Electric Corporation — Director (2020–Present)
- Genasys Inc. — Director (2024–Present)

Nonprofit Boards

- America's Public Television Stations (APTS) — At-Large Trustee (2017–Present)

SENIOR ADVISORY ROLES

- Resilience Force — Advisor
- Bent Ear Solutions — Advisor
- Fire Neural Network — Advisor
- Gulf Research Program — SME, community health clinic resilience initiative

TEACHING & EXECUTIVE EDUCATION

Senior Advisor to the President; Lecturer | *Indian River State College* *April 2021 – Present*

- Founder and lead instructor of the Thunderbolt Academy for local emergency managers.
- Facilitates executive workshops on AI for emergency management (2025–2026).

Senior Instructor & Advisor | *U.S. Army Civilian Emergency Management Program* *2017 – 2020*

Guest Lecturer | *National Defense University* *2012 – 2016*

Guest Lecturer | *Marine Corps University* *2010 – 2016*

CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY

- U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure — FEMA's response to Hurricane Sandy (2012).
- U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs — “Hurricane Sandy: Getting the Recovery Right and the Value of Mitigation” (2013).
- U.S. House Homeland Security Subcommittee — “Blackout! Managing the Aftermath of a Cyber-Attack or Grid Failure” (2016).
- U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure — written testimony on FEMA reform and the legislative evolution from PKEMRA to the FEMA Act of 2025 (2025–2026).

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

(Condensed to highest-impact works; full list available upon request.)

Shultz, J.M., Kossin, J., Hertelendy, A., Burkle, F., Fugate, C., et al. Mitigating the Twin Threats of Climate-Driven Atlantic Hurricanes and COVID-19 Transmission. *Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness* (2020).

Shultz, J.M., Fugate, C., Galea, S. Cascading Risks of COVID-19 Resurgence During an Active 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season. *JAMA* (2020).

Hertelendy, A.J., Fugate, C., Ciottone, G.R. Hospital Preparedness for One of the Worst Predicted Hurricane Seasons on Record. *The Lancet Regional Health – Americas*.

Shultz, J.M., Sands, D.E., Holder-Hamilton, N., Fugate, C., et al. Scrambling for Safety in the Eye of Dorian. Health Affairs (2020).

Fugate, C., Sessions, D.R. Disaster Response. In Civetta, Taylor, and Kirby's Critical Care, 4th ed. (2010).

AWARDS & HONORS

- Lacy E. Suiter Distinguished Service Award — NEMA (2016)
- Florida National Guard Hall of Fame — (2006)
- “Neil Frank” Award — National Hurricane Conference (2005)

EDUCATION

Santa Fe College, Gainesville, FL — Paramedic Certificate Program (1983)