



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

## NEWS from Fire Fighters

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# IAFF Statement on Appointment of Fugate to Head Federal Emergency Management Agency

*Washington, DC* – The International Association of Fire Fighters and its state association, the Florida Professional Firefighters, today issued this statement on President Obama’s choice of Craig Fugate to head the Federal Emergency Management Agency:

“Craig Fugate’s performance in his role as head of Florida’s Division of Emergency Management received high marks and praise from our state association there,” IAFF General President Harold Schaitberger said. “Secretary Napolitano has confidence that Fugate will perform well in carrying out the mission of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and President Obama, and we fully support them in their work to protect our nation. Mr. Fugate has our full support in his new role and we look forward to working with him to continue improving FEMA.”

Fugate has worked with the 24,000 members of the Florida Professional Firefighters since taking over the Florida Division of Emergency Management in 2001.

“Florida’s professional fire fighters established a solid working relationship with Craig Fugate, and he did everything he could to ensure that we had the resources we needed to protect the people in our state and protect ourselves,” said Robert Carver, president of the Florida Professional Firefighters.

The IAFF sharply criticized FEMA’s response following hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma in 2005 and has long encouraged FEMA to work more closely with state and local first responders.

“We expect that as the head of FEMA, Mr. Fugate will now do everything he can to ensure that fire fighters across the nation have the resources they need to protect people across the country and protect professional fire fighters across the country,” Carver said.

The IAFF has been a vocal advocate for keeping FEMA within the Department of Homeland Security.

“We expect that Craig Fugate will be an excellent addition to the senior leadership team at DHS, and we urge the Senate to confirm him swiftly,” Schaitberger said.

*The International Association of Fire Fighters represents 294,000 fire fighters and paramedics in the United States and Canada and is the leading advocate for the safety and training of first responders. More information is available at [www.iaff.org](http://www.iaff.org)*

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