



# THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

1620 EYE STREET, NORTHWEST  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006  
TELEPHONE (202) 293-7330  
FAX (202) 293-2352  
TDD (202) 293-9445  
URL: [www.usmayors.org/uscm](http://www.usmayors.org/uscm)

February 9, 2010

To: The Mayor

From: C. Ray Nagin, Mayor of New Orleans  
Chair, Stafford Act Reform Task Force

Kevin Johnson, Mayor of Sacramento  
Vice Chair, Stafford Act Reform Task Force

Re: Achieving Stafford Act Reform

We have been honored to lead the Conference of Mayor's Task Force on Stafford Act Reform and appreciate the time and effort of the mayors and city staff who contributed so much to our work. Now that our report has been adopted by the Conference of Mayors as its official policy, we are asking all mayors to help us transmit our recommendations to Congress and work to get them enacted into law.

- Please contact your city's delegation and urge them to support the development and passage of legislation which incorporates the Task Force's recommendations. A letter which you can use to do this is attached.
- Please communicate any responses you receive a response from any members of your delegation to us by forwarding them to Laura DeKoven Waxman, the Conference's Director of Public Safety at [lwaxman@usmayors.org](mailto:lwaxman@usmayors.org).

The Stafford Act is the primary federal statute that guides the nation's response to natural and man-made disasters. Though it is intended to provide great flexibility to the agencies directly interacting with affected communities, the responses to Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Rita and subsequent natural disasters have highlighted the inadequacies of the law and the need for greater flexibility in some areas and stricter requirements in others. City leaders need the assurance that, as they work to prepare for and mitigate disasters or rebuild their communities after they occur, the federal government, with its access to significantly greater resources, will be working in lock-step with them throughout the process. Our recommendations cover catastrophic disasters, hazard mitigation, individual and household assistance; insurance, other disaster grants, emergency preparedness and response, and FEMA administration.

Thank you for your help in this important matter. If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact either of us or Laura.