

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency**

Muriel Bowser  
Mayor



Dr. Chris Rodriguez  
Director

**For Immediate Release:**

May 3, 2018

**Contact:**

Nicole Peckumn (HSEMA): 202-481-3102, [nicole.peckumn@dc.gov](mailto:nicole.peckumn@dc.gov)

**District of Columbia Earns Highest Honor for Emergency Management**

*D.C. Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency is building a safer and more resilient city*

(Washington, DC) – Whether it’s planning for the 58th Presidential Inauguration and the March For Our Lives rally or preparing for severe weather events and acts of terrorism, Mayor Muriel Bowser is ensuring the District can effectively respond to all threats and hazards and these efforts were recently recognized with the highest honor in emergency management excellence.

With leadership from DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA), the District earned reaccreditation from the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP), for its ability to bring together personnel, resources, and communications in preparation for and in response to any disaster. This accreditation is possible because of the partnerships between District agencies, its regional and federal partners, stakeholders and the public to build a safer, stronger and more resilient city.

“This recognition serves as validation the District is building our emergency capabilities for disaster preparedness and response,” said District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser. “Throughout the District, there is a sincere dedication and commitment to the safety and security of the residents and visitors which is reflected in the work I see every single day.”

The EMAP accreditation process evaluates emergency management programs on compliance with requirements in sixteen areas, including: planning; resource management; training; exercises, evaluations, and corrective actions; communications and warning; and administration. The accreditation demonstrates, through self-assessment, documentation and peer review, that the District meets the highest national standards for emergency management programs. The District also earned accreditation in 2011 and 2003.

“Reaccreditation is a significant accomplishment for the District,” said HSEMA Director, Dr. Christopher Rodriguez. “I’m proud the District has been recognized for its approach to preparing the whole community.”

The reaccreditation comes as the District participates in the 2018 National Level Exercise (NLE) coordinated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The District has the largest state participation in the exercise, which examines state and local capabilities to protect against, respond to, and recover from a major Mid-Atlantic hurricane.

**Social media:**

HSEMA Twitter: @DC\_HSEMA

HSEMA Facebook: @HSEMADC

HSEMA Instagram: @DCHSEMA

