Mike Herman, JD, MA

Principal, Stratton Consulting LLC

Speaker Bio:

Mike Herman has more than 30 years of federal, state, and private-sector experience in emergency management.

He has supported responses to major events including both World Trade Center attacks, Hurricanes Katrina, Sandy, Irma, and Maria, and the COVID pandemic.

Mike served nearly eight years as senior committee staff in the U.S. House of Representatives, including 4 years with the Appropriations Committee where he helped develop more than $35 billion in annual funding for FEMA and other agencies and 4 years with the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee providing oversight of FEMA programs, drafting legislation and serving as counsel for 25 emergency management hearings.

Earlier, he served more than 11 years in FEMA's Office of General Counsel in the disaster program deploying to and supporting disasters nationwide and as Legislative and Regulatory Counsel. He began his career in emergency management as the Special Assistant for Emergency Management and Policy Advisor to the Governor of New Jersey

In the private sector he played a key role in developing a national disaster recovery practice for an international consulting firm.

Most recently, he served as Senior Counselor to the Transportation Security Administration Administrator, advising agency leadership on key strategic priorities.

Mike holds a J.D., an M.A. in Political Science and Public Policy, and a B.A. in Political Science from Rutgers University.

Presentation:

FEMA, Congress, and the Future of Emergency Management Policy

In the wake of the 2026 midterm elections, Washington's shifting political landscape raises important questions about the path forward for emergency

management policy. Join IAEM Director of Government Affairs Thad Huguley, IAEM President Josh Morton, NEMA Director of Government Affairs Matt Cowles, and longtime emergency management policy expert Mike Herman for a candid discussion about the future of FEMA, congressional efforts to reform federal disaster policy, and the challenges and opportunities facing the emergency management community. Drawing on decades of experience navigating federal policy, the panelists will offer insights into the political and legislative landscape, what lies ahead, and how emergency managers can help shape the future of the profession.