



## 2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DRCA provides a critical link for its members to senior leaders in the federal government, state and local officials, industry representatives, Congressional policymakers, associations and non-profits and additional key stakeholders. As weather patterns change and disaster intensity increases, disaster costs and losses will rise exponentially in the US and abroad with DRCA members providing solutions to restore communities and provide relief to those in the path of disasters. As DRCA works to build public private partnerships and improve disaster recovery operations, our priority should be to educate political and industry leaders on the widespread contributions DRCA makes to the public policy initiatives in the disaster recovery industry. The following represents an overview of significant achievements of the DRCA in 2019 and highlights some of the ongoing efforts from the past year that we will continue in 2020.

### DRCA's PRIORITIES:

The following initiatives are a core component of DRCA's mission:

- To engage and educate policymakers on the contributions of the disaster recovery industry;
- To raise the awareness of the benefits to local, state and federal governments of partnering with the private sector;
- To find innovative solutions and ways to build capacity and strengthen the industry's capabilities; and,
- To support our governmental partners in implementing programs, sustaining operational capacity and advocating policies that help facilitate and expedite disaster recovery efforts across the country.

### New Initiatives to support our Mission:

- Developed a revised Strategic Plan to establish key priorities & strategic objectives as benchmarks of progress.
- Initiated Quarterly Board of Directors Calls & Monthly Executive Committee Calls to improve communications between DRCA's leadership team.
- Developed a Best Practices & Code of Ethics document for DRCA covering Corporate Governance, Ethics, Conflicts of Interest, Management, Public Awareness, Engagement & Advocacy.
- Doubled the size of DRCA's Board of Directors, broadening the Board's professional experience and expertise.
- Hosted FEMA Regional meetings in Regions 4, 6 & 9 and at the 6 largest emergency management conferences in the country, with the mission of continual FEMA/DRCA dialog and communication.
- Hired Lisa Miller as an external consultant to bolster strategy, marketing, communications & policy advocacy/development.
- Improved response time when releasing DRCA letters, policy papers, Congressional letters, and public policy recommendations to demonstrate DRCA's real time engagement.

### POLICY PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT

DRCA membership and leadership guided the response to many of 2019's federal agency initiatives, including those that had a positive as well as a negative effect on the disaster recovery industry. DRCA focused on policies and programs impacting our membership with vocal and forceful strategies as follows:

- Developed a "Disaster Housing Policy Paper," submitted to FEMA to advocate for the reinstatement of the STEP or similar program, with the goal to minimize the disruption that is caused when residents have to leave their home for alternative disaster housing outside of their communities/region.
- Developed a "Logistics & Immediate Needs Commodities Policy Paper" making specific recommendations to FEMA's Logistics division on improving supply chain management following disasters and raising the awareness that FEMA should utilize analytics tools to project and plan for immediate commodity quantities.

- Developed and submitted to FEMA a “Debris Removal Policy Paper” of specific recommendations that would eliminate barriers to efficient and timely debris monitoring and removal, with best practices based on the collective experience of DRCA members.
- Presented at and attended numerous meetings, forums, and conferences, focusing on Congressional policymakers, federal officials, and external stakeholder groups.
- Developed a letter explaining the negative impact FEMA’s memo entitled “Contract with Recipients & Sub-Recipients” will have on the industry and met with FEMA officials to request clarification. The letter was aimed to reinforce that negotiations between communities and FEMA would grind to a halt if FEMA’s position was not reconsidered.
- Conducted meetings with FEMA leadership in the Response, Recovery, Logistics and Resilience Divisions to ensure industry principles and best practices are a part of FEMA’s policies (debris, logistics, housing, PA, etc.) & legislation implementation of current and proposed legislation such as DRRRA, Disaster Transparency Act, etc..
- Developed and submitted official comments to FEMA, Senators Lankford & Scott and the House T&I Committee on important industry-facing policies and legislation.
- Worked with state and local emergency management communities, including NEMA & IAEM, to provide official comments to FEMA urging the agency implement the DRRRA and addressing challenging policy issues.
- Communicated continuously with FEMA officials to advocate DRCA priorities, including allowing the private sector to efficiently and effectively serve communities recovering from disasters.

## **CAPITOL HILL ENGAGEMENT**

As in previous years, DRCA’s 2019 continued engagement with members of the U.S. House and Senate was successful in navigating the 116th Congress. DRCA leadership conducted productive meetings with House T&I Committee, Senate Appropriations Committee, the House Homeland Security & Government Affairs Committee, Senator Scott’s office, Senator Lankford’s office, and provided background and intelligence in FEMA related Congressional hearings.

## **STATE & LOCAL ENGAGEMENT**

In Q3-Q4 of 2019, DRCA met with the Directors of Emergency Management in over 15 states and 15 counties across the country. In 2020 and beyond, DRCA will strengthen these state and local relationships and build coalitions to address important industry issues.

## **FEDERAL AGENCY COORDINATION**

Over the year, DRCA regularly communicated with FEMA’s leadership to reinforce that the agency must consult with key external stakeholders and partners prior to significant policy and administrative changes. Some of the discussion centered on the latest issues including DRRRA implementation and additional response, recovery and logistics programs and priorities, and DRCA met again with FEMA leadership (along with state and local emergency managers) to discuss Response, Recovery and Logistics issues.

## **DRCA BUILDING INITIATIVES**

2019 was another strong year for initiatives that grew and strengthen the DRCA, with efforts focused on:

- Serving as an active member and advisor to the Stafford Act Coalition, a group of emergency management and disaster policy-focused individuals and organizations.
- Building relationships with key intergovernmental organizations (NEMA, IAEM, etc.), including those representing governors, cities, counties, state legislatures, and the emergency management community, to further DRCA priorities.
- Participating as speakers at the largest EM conferences to build association awareness and communicate DRCA policy priorities.

- Expanding the DRCA's partnership with FEMA, DRCA worked with FEMA Region 6 to initiate a Debris Policy Summit with key Federal, State and local officials and contractors. We look forward to continuing the Summit on an annual basis.

### **Enhancing Partnership, Education, and Awareness:**

This past year, in an effort to further establish DRCA's status as a thought leader in the disaster recovery industry, we hosted meetings with FEMA, state and local governments and private sector partners at the largest emergency management conferences in the country:

- DRCA met with FEMA's Leadership Team (Response & Recovery) and the House T&I Committee at NEMA's Mid-Year Forum in March in Alexandria, VA
- DRCA held its annual meeting at the National Hurricane Conference in April in Palm Beach, FL.
- DRCA participated on a panel with the Texas Division of Emergency Management at the Texas Governor's Hurricane Conference in April in San Antonio.
- DRCA held a meeting with Florida's Division of Emergency Management and the FEMA Administrator at the Florida Governor's Annual Hurricane Conference in May in Palm Beach, FL
- DRCA met with 15 State Directors of Emergency Management at NEMA's Annual Forum in Coeur d'Alene, ID
- DRCA met with 15 County Directors of Emergency Management IAEM's Annual Conference in November in Savannah, GA

In conclusion, DRCA was fully engaged in disaster related conversations throughout the country in real time, making a real difference. We are looking forward to further strengthening relationships with disaster management officials in our effort for DRCA to continue to be the "go to" organization before FEMA and other federal agencies release public policy decisions. Our commitment is steadfast so that stakeholders recognize that when they need to know, they know where to go and that is to DRCA!