

Elizabeth (Beth) A. Zimmerman  
Senior Advisor, Potomac Ridge Consulting, LLC

Ms. Zimmerman is an emergency manager with over 35 years of experience. A globally recognized leader in emergency management, Ms. Zimmerman has a passion to assist disaster survivors in times of crisis. She received a Presidential appointment in 2009 to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) where she oversaw all aspects of the agency's response, recovery and logistics efforts and served as the highest-ranking woman at the agency. During her tenure, she oversaw more than 930 disasters, emergencies and fire declarations, delivering over \$6.5 billion to 1.7 million individuals and families and more than \$27 billion in federal disaster assistance to state, local, tribal and non-profit groups.

At FEMA, Ms. Zimmerman held the dual titles of Associate Administrator for the Office of Response and Recovery (ORR) and Director of Disaster Operations. She directed, coordinated, and synchronized the programs and operations of FEMA's Response, Recovery, and Logistics Directorates. She championed and directed the first ever National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF), establishing how the nation and whole community recovers from disasters. The key to effective support to states, tribes, territories, and locals during and after a disaster is to understand their uniqueness. Knowing this, Ms. Zimmerman took the time to meet on their ground to see disaster impacts first-hand. She has travelled to all U.S. states and territories. She has also represented the United States in Australia, Japan, Lebanon, Canada and Mexico for emergency management.

A hallmark of Ms. Zimmerman's work at FEMA was her effort to support employees, particularly in encouraging and mentoring women in the field of emergency management. In early 2013, she designed and established FEMA's Quarterly Women's Forum, helping employees learn more about distinguished women leaders from the public and private sectors. In 2014, she was inducted into the International Women in Homeland Security and Emergency Management Hall of Fame.

Ms. Zimmerman was appointed and has served on several commissions and committees: the American Red Cross Cabinet Council; the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA); Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP); Governor's Arizona Forest Health Oversight Council; and Arizona Governor's Emergency Council.

Prior to her work at FEMA, Ms. Zimmerman served as the Assistant Director of Recovery at the State of Arizona, Division of Emergency Management; the HKNet Manager and Technical Recruiting Agent at Hall Kinon Technical Staffing Firm; and the Administration and Recovery Section Chief at the State of Utah's Division of Emergency Management.

Ms. Zimmerman holds a B.S. Economics from Brigham Young University. She also graduated from the Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Homeland Defense and Security, Executive Leader Program, and the Emergency Management Institute, Emergency Management Professional Development Program.