

# 2023 Iowa Homeland Security Conference

October 11-13, 2023

## **Speaker & Professional title:**

Mike Cappannari, External Affairs Director, FEMA Region VII

## **Speaker Biography:**

After receiving his master's in public administration from the University of Connecticut in 2004, Mike took a job as a Legislative Assistant in the Office of Legislative Affairs at DHS (Department of Homeland Security) HQ. Within a couple of years, he moved from a LA to an Assistant Director, becoming a Director in 2009. During that time, he worked on various portfolios, including FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), USCG-US Coast Guard, USM (Under Secretary of Management), and TSA (Transportation Security Administration). He managed all Congressional activity at the Headquarters level related to FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and TSA (Transportation Security Administration) issues.

In 2011 Mike took a position as the External Affairs Director for FEMA Region 7, with their HQ in Kansas City, Missouri. The External Affairs Officer serves as a liaison for key FEMA stakeholders: Congress, Private Sector, State/Local elected officials, and the media. He has supported the response and recovery to many disasters since joining FEMA, including: Superstorm Sandy, 2016 Baton Rouge, LA flooding, Hurricane Matthew, Hurricane Irma, Hurricane Maria, 2016 and 2017 flooding throughout Missouri, 2019 flooding throughout Nebraska/Iowa/Missouri, Hurricane Michael, and Hurricane Ian.