



Ruben D. Almaguer

Ruben Almaguer is a certified emergency management professional and first responder with over 35 years' experience in public sector positions. He has extensive hands on practical and academic knowledge of international and domestic emergency operations, especially with federal Urban Search & Rescue and state based disaster medical response teams.

Mr. Almaguer currently serves as the Assistant Vice President of Disaster Management and Emergency Operations and serves as the Executive Director of the Academy for International Disaster Preparedness for Florida International University, the 4th largest university in the nation. In his academic role, Ruben oversees the Masters of Arts Degree in Disaster Management as well as many other non-credit based certifications offered at

FIU. Formerly he served in Monroe County, Florida as the Chief of EMS and Emergency Medical Services Helicopter Transport Operations.

Between 2007 and 2010, Mr. Almaguer served as the Interim Director and Deputy Director for the Florida Division of Emergency Management. Prior to his role, Ruben worked for Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department as a Division Chief where he gained significant international and domestic disaster response experience responding on behalf of the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Ruben has served as Incident Support Team Leader and Operations Section Chief for many federal Urban Search & Rescue Teams and had responded to over 27 natural and manmade disasters including earthquakes in Venezuela, Colombia, Taiwan, Turkey as well as hurricanes and floods throughout Central America, Africa and the Caribbean.

Domestically, Mr. Almaguer has extensive domestic disaster response experience including Oklahoma City Bombing, Pentagon 9-11 Attacks, Hurricane Katrina, and most recently Hurricane Irma. During these disasters, his response roles included medical specialist, safety officer, operations chief, task force leader and incident commander.

Mr. Almaguer received a Master's in Homeland Security and Defense from the Naval Postgraduate School, a Master's in Public Administration from Florida International University, and graduated from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government's Senior Executives in State and Local Government. Ruben also holds many licenses and certifications to include: Certified Emergency Manager, State of Florida firefighter, paramedic, and Emergency Medical Operations (EMO) for a CBRNE Incident.