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**New FEMA boss is 'Duct Tape Man'** [Post [293963232](#)]**Category:** News & Opinion (General) **Topic:** News & Current Events**Synopsis:** Another incompetent is named to replace Brown**Source:** [MSMBC](#)**Published:** September 12, 2005 **Author:** Keith Olbermann**For Education and Discussion Only. Not for Commercial Use.**

New FEMA boss is 'Duct Tape Man' (Keith Olbermann)

SECAUCUS — If Michael Brown's resignation this afternoon as the head of FEMA was supposed to end the political controversy over the administration's response to Hurricane Katrina, it probably won't.

In another gesture symbolizing the continued confusion of the federal response, the man President Bush immediately named to succeed "Brownie," proves to have been the same FEMA official who, two-and-a-half years ago, suggested that Americans stock up on duct tape to protect against a biological or chemical terrorist attack.

David Paulison, then the government's Fire Administrator, joined with the then-head of Homeland Security Tom Ridge, on February 10th, 2003, to say that duct tape and plastic sheeting should be part of any home's "survival kit" in preparation for a terrorist attack. That set off a run on duct tape at stores, and widespread criticism of the administration. It might have been the first time after 9/11 that a large number of Americans wondered if the government really knew what it was talking about when it came to disaster preparedness.

And the man behind that politically explosive proposal, has just been named to succeed the man who had been the face of the politically explosive response to Hurricane Katrina.

Paulison brings an extensive resume to the post. He ran fire operations for Miami-Dade County in Florida, and was past president of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. But in light of the response to this hurricane, another comment he made at the time of the Duct Tape announcements rings especially loudly. Paulison said in February, 2003, that in the first 48 to 72 hours of an emergency, many Americans would likely have to look after themselves.

As to the exit of Mr. Brown, who knows how many of the millions of Americans directly or indirectly touched by Hurricane Katrina probably had the identical thought when he quit his post this afternoon: Namely, that he was no doubt already updating his padded resume.

And his departure was not even unattended by confusion. In Brown's statement, he wrote, "As I told the President, it is important that I leave now." But when first asked about it during his tour of Mississippi, Mr. Bush said he had no details, hadn't talked to Brown or Homeland Security chief Chertoff, and, "maybe you know something I

don't know." Later, press secretary Scott McClellan said that the President had already known about the resignation — he just hadn't known that it had been made public.

And he was already just minutes away from naming Brown's successor: Duct Tape Man.

SandyUSA writes: *"Have Bush and Company so totally lost their minds that they keep making these outrageous mistakes in judgement?"*

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