



U.S. Department of Justice

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**FORMER NORTH FLORIDA RESIDENT INDICTED FOR
HURRICANE KATRINA FRAUD**

Panama City, Florida - United States Attorney Gregory R. Miller, Northern District of Florida announced that RANDY DOICK, a former resident of Lynn Haven, Florida was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury convened in Pensacola, Florida for three counts of making false claims to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and three counts of stealing money from the United States Government. The indictment alleges that on three separate occasions in September 2005, Doick applied for FEMA disaster assistance, claiming an address in Biloxi, Mississippi as his primary residence damaged by Hurricane Katrina's flood, hail, rain, wind driven rain, power surges and lightning. The indictment further alleges that Doick did not reside at the claimed address when Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast on August 29, 2005, but instead lived in Lynn Haven (Bay County), Florida and suffered no disaster-related losses at all. According to the allegations, Doick received a total of \$6,000 as a result of his false claims.

False claims against the government are punishable by up to five (5) years in federal prison. Thefts of government money exceeding \$1,000 are punishable by up to 10 years in federal prison Both crimes are also punishable by a \$250,000 fine and three (3) years of supervised release.

In September 2005, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzalez created the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, designed to deter, investigate and prosecute disaster-related federal crimes such as charity fraud, identity theft, procurement fraud and insurance fraud. The Hurricane Katrina Task Force – chaired by Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of the Criminal Division – includes members from the FBI, the Federal Trade Commission, the Postal Inspector's Office, and the Executive Office of United States Attorneys, among others. This case was investigated by Special Agent Jeffery S. Monnin, Department of Homeland Security Office of Special Inspector General (Office of Investigations), Atlanta, Georgia. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Dixie A. Morrow of the Pensacola Division.

An indictment is merely a formal charge by the Grand Jury. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in United States District Court.