

Spotlight

Department of Homeland Security



Office of Inspector General

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Why This Matters

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides public assistance grants to state, Tribal, and local government, and certain types of private nonprofit organizations so that communities can quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies declared by the President. We perform audits of FEMA grantees and subgrantees to determine whether cost claimed under the awards are eligible and allowable under federal regulations and FEMA guidelines. The City of Virginia Beach, Virginia, (City) received an award of \$2.6 million for damages as a result of Tropical Depression Ida and a nor'easter that occurred in November 2009.

DHS Response

FEMA's written response is due within 90 days.

FEMA Public Assistance Grant Funds Awarded to the City of Virginia Beach, Virginia

What We Determined

The City accounted for FEMA grant funds according to federal regulations and FEMA guidelines. However, the City's claim included \$175,047 of questionable costs consisting of \$93,817 of unsupported costs and \$81,230 of ineligible project costs that should be disallowed by FEMA.

What We Recommend

Our report contained two recommendations to the Regional Administrator, FEMA Region III, for disallowance of the \$175,047 (federal share \$131,285) of questioned costs.

For Further Information:

Contact our Office of Public Affairs at (202)254-4100, or email us at DHS-OIG.OfficePublicAffairs@dhs.gov