



### 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 Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (Department) received an award of \$9.7 million for damages as a result of a severe winter ice storm that occurred in December 2008.

### DHS Response

FEMA's written response is due within 90 days.

## FEMA Public Assistance Grant Funds Awarded to the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

### What We Determined

The Department generally accounted for FEMA grant funds according to federal regulations and FEMA guidelines. However, the Department's claim included \$357,332 of questionable costs consisting of \$99,344 of excessive project costs and \$257,988 of unsupported costs.

### What We Recommend

We recommend that the Regional Administrator, FEMA Region I:

1. Disallow \$99,344 (federal share \$74,508) of excessive project costs.
2. Disallow \$257,988 (federal share \$193,491) of unsupported project costs.

### For Further Information:

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