

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
Office of Inspector General

**Management Advisory Report – FEMA
Emergency Housing Units Property
Management**

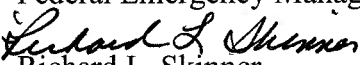




Homeland Security

March 25, 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR: R. David Paulison
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency

FROM: 
Richard L. Skinner
Inspector General

SUBJECT: Management Advisory Report – *FEMA Emergency Housing Units
Property Management*
Report Number OIG 08- 33

On March 19, 2007, we initiated an audit of accountable property related to the emergency housing units, e.g., travel trailers, mobile homes, and modular homes, for the Gulf Coast hurricanes. The audit included units purchased by FEMA and units already in FEMA's inventory used for Gulf Coast relief efforts. The audit objectives were to assess property management controls and practices for the emergency housing units and determine whether property management practices provided sufficient accountability over the units. We contracted with Williams, Adley & Company, LLP to conduct this audit.

We held an entrance conference on May 2, 2007, and a data request list was sent on June 1, 2007. Since that time, numerous requests have been sent to obtain this data. Though some of the information has been provided, the most critical information relating to the total emergency housing unit population has not been received. Therefore, Williams, Adley & Company, LLP has not been able to proceed with the audit of the program.

Because FEMA did not provide the necessary information concerning the emergency housing units, this advisory is your notification that this audit has been suspended. FEMA's inability to provide the required information on the emergency housing units raises very serious questions regarding the controls over the program and casts doubts concerning whether FEMA has accurate records of the units, their current locations, and any dispositions. Since the emergency housing units are a critical element of emergency response, the objectives of this accountability audit will be included in a subsequent phase of the "Management Review of FEMA's Emergency Housing Unit Program". We will be contacting your office in the near future concerning this audit.

We recommend that FEMA conduct a complete inventory and reconciliation of all emergency housing units including units previously in inventory and units purchased subsequent to the Gulf Coast hurricanes including travel trailers, mobile homes, and modular homes. The reconciliation should include the current location of units as well as sales and dispositions.

Should you have any questions, please call me, or your staff may contact Matt Jadacki, Deputy Inspector General, Office of Emergency Management Oversight, at (202)-254-4100.

cc: Chief Financial Officer, DHS
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Audit Liaison, DHS
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