

Spotlight

Department of Homeland Security



Office of Inspector General

April 2012 DA-12-15

Why This Matters

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides public assistance 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 Coral Springs, Florida, (City) received an award of \$24.7 million for damages resulting from Hurricane Wilma that occurred in October 2005.

DHS Response

FEMA's written response is due within 90 days.

FEMA Public Assistance Grant Funds Awarded to the City of Coral Springs, Florida - Hurricane Wilma

What We Determined

The City accounted for project expenditures on a project-by-project basis as required by federal regulations. However, we identified \$5.3 million of questioned costs consisting of \$1.6 million of costs that were covered by insurance and \$3.7 million of costs that were unsupported, duplicate, unreasonable, and ineligible. Additionally, the City did not always comply with FEMA guidelines on the use of time-and-material contracts.

What We Recommend

Our report contained six recommendations to the Regional Administrator, FEMA Region IV, for disallowance of the \$5.3 million 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