

# Spotlight

Department of Homeland Security



## Office of Inspector General

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### Why This Matters

Exercises play a critical role in preparing our Nation for future disasters. National Level Exercise 2011 is a Tier 1 exercise that is White House directed, policy focused, and employs a U.S. government-wide strategy. Tier 1 exercises are mandated by Congress and coordinated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The functional exercise component of National Level Exercise 2011 began with a simulated earthquake along the New Madrid fault line. It included participants from various federal, state, and local agencies, as well as private sector and nonprofit organizations. The exercise lasted 4 days and included more than 4,000 federal employees from 43 departments and agencies.

## National Level Exercise 2011- Federal Partner Participation

### What we Determined

We developed a report on federal partner participation in National Level Exercise 2011 to encourage federal Inspectors General to assess their own agency's preparedness for disaster response. The exercise identified issues that hamper our Nation's ability to respond to a catastrophic earthquake. To expedite improvements in disaster response, the Federal Emergency Management Agency compiled an initial findings report from the exercise reviews, identifying issues federal agencies need to address. Additionally, two federal agencies that were expected to participate in the functional exercise did not take part. This report is not an evaluation of National Level Exercise 2011 and does not contain any recommendations; however, we expect that it will result in additional assessments of federal partners' disaster response capabilities.

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#### For Further Information:

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