

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 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 costs claimed under the awards are eligible and allowable under Federal regulations and FEMA guidelines. The City of Norfolk, Virginia, received an award of \$3.0 million for damages resulting from Tropical Storm Ida and a Nor'easter that occurred in November 2009.

DHS Response

FEMA's written response is due within 90 days.

FEMA Should Recover \$131,064 of Public Assistance Grant Funds Awarded to City of Norfolk, Virginia - Tropical Storm Ida and a Nor'easter

What We Determined

FEMA should recover \$131,064 of grant funds awarded to the City. Although the City generally accounted for FEMA funds according to Federal regulations and FEMA guidelines, its claim included \$131,064 for contract work that did not fully comply with Federal procurement requirements.

What We Recommend

We recommend that the Regional Administrator, FEMA Region III, disallow \$131,064 (Federal share \$98,298) of ineligible contract costs unless FEMA grants the City an exception for all or part of the costs as provided for in Section 705(c) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended.

For Further Information:

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