

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. Brevard County, Florida, (County) received an award of \$12.1 million for damages resulting from Hurricane Wilma that occurred in October 2005.

DHS Response

FEMA's written response is due within 90 days.

FEMA Should Recover \$154,143 of FEMA Public Assistance Funds Awarded to Brevard County, Florida, Under Hurricane Wilma

What We Determined

The County generally accounted for FEMA grant funds according to Federal regulations and FEMA guidelines. However, its claim included \$154,143 of ineligible costs, which consisted of \$75,494 of costs covered by insurance, \$45,577 of costs covered by another agency, and \$33,072 of costs for repairs to facilities for which the County did not obtain and maintain required insurance coverage to protect the facilities against future losses.

What We Recommend

The report contained three recommendations to the Regional Administrator, FEMA Region IV, to disallow the \$154,143 of ineligible costs the County claimed.

For Further Information:

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