



### Why This Matters

On May 20, 2013, the President declared a major disaster declaration for the State of Oklahoma due to the severe storms and tornadoes that struck Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and surrounding areas. On May 28, 2013, the Office of Inspector General deployed an Emergency Management Oversight Team to determine whether the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) response was effective and to evaluate FEMA's actions, resources, and authorities according to Federal regulations and FEMA policies and guidelines in effect at the time of the disaster.

## FEMA's Response to the Oklahoma Severe Storms And Tornadoes

### What We Determined

FEMA's response to the Oklahoma severe storms and tornadoes was effective. FEMA demonstrated its ability to fulfill its mission to serve and assist disaster survivors by aggressively responding to the disaster both before and after the Presidential declaration, meeting recovery challenges, creatively overcoming resource shortfalls, implementing a variety of disaster sourcing methods, and effectively coordinating activities with the State.

However, based on our observations, we identified systemic, rather than disaster specific, issues regarding (1) procurement guidance that FEMA personnel provide early in disasters, (2) hazard mitigation planning requirements that delayed funding of mitigation measures, and (3) the effectiveness of FEMA's Qualification System and its deployment policies to deploy the appropriate number of qualified personnel in a timely manner. Therefore, we plan to issue separate reports that address these systemic issues.

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#### For Further Information:

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