



### Why This Matters

On August 28, 2012, Hurricane Isaac struck Southeast Louisiana causing widespread flooding in the low lying areas impacting 15 parishes. As the Hurricane moved inland and downgraded to a tropical storm and later to a tropical depression, it continued to move slowly and took several days to exit the state. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) can provide disaster assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Public Law 93-288, as amended, once the President declares a "major disaster" or an "emergency." In the case of Hurricane Isaac, FEMA recommended and the President declared an emergency declaration for 15 parishes and later declared a major disaster declaration for Individual Assistance and Public Assistance in 55 of Louisiana's 64 parishes.

## FEMA'S Initial Response To Hurricane Isaac In Louisiana Was Effective And Efficient

### What We Determined

FEMA's response to Hurricane Isaac was overall effective and efficient. Normally, FEMA needs several days to deploy and position staff to the areas needed to respond to a disaster. In this case, FEMA was fortunate to have facilities and staff already operating in Louisiana when Hurricane Isaac made landfall. The ability to draw upon these resources allowed FEMA to respond faster and more effectively than usual. FEMA prepared well for this disaster, faced challenges with innovative solutions, quickly resolved resource shortfalls, made efficient disaster sourcing decisions, and coordinated its activities effectively with State and local officials. All disasters generate unexpected issues, but the FEMA disaster team was able to adjust and adapt quickly to fulfill its mission.

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#### For Further Information:

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