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Catalyst for Improving the Environment

Disaster-related Activities of the EPA Office of Inspector General

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The Human Impact of Katrina and Rita

- 1.5 million people evacuated the Gulf Coast
- 250,000 homes damaged or destroyed
- Over 1,200 lives lost
- Est. 600,000 people needed sheltering



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The Environmental Impact of Katrina and Rita

- Hurricane debris
- Flood waters
- Drinking water / waste water systems
- Oil spills and hazardous releases
- Sediment contamination
- Superfund sites



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EPA Funding Sources for Katrina Cleanup

- Mission assignments
 - FEMA: \$329 million
 - Corps of Engineers: \$3.5 million
 - EPA: \$5 million

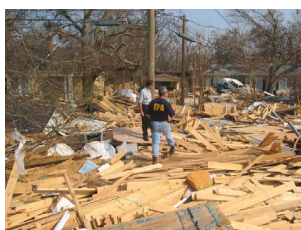


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Mission Assignments

- \$\$\$ = Contracts = Personnel & Equipment
- Recovery, removal, and disposal operations
- Technical support and environmental assessments



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Mission Assignments

- Air monitoring – open burning of debris
- Water quality assessments in Gulf area
- Hazardous waste and oil removal





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President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency Objectives

- Prevent problems
- Ensure accountability
- Review internal controls
- Monitor & advise



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Audit Work

- “Financial” audit plan objectives:
 - Determine whether EPA
 - Paid reasonable prices
 - Safeguarded purchased equipment
 - Adequately controlled expenditures



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Evaluations Work

- Evaluations objectives:
 - Determine
 - Whether EPA provided quality and timely information to the public, States, and decision makers
 - How that information was used



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Drinking Water Evaluation

- Objectives:
 - Public with timely and accurate information about the safety of their drinking water?
 - Process adequate?
 - Any illnesses, and if so, what steps have been taken?
 - Progress in getting damaged facilities back on-line?
 - Were lessons learned from the World Trade Center followed?



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Wastewater Evaluation

- Objectives:
 - Were quality and timely information provided relative to the safety of individuals and the environment from wastewater?
 - Did the affected States use the information provided by EPA?



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Debris and Waste Evaluation

- Objectives:
 - How is EPA determining the impact of oil spills, fuel releases, sediment contamination, and other hazardous material or substance releases?
 - Are distinctions between hazardous and non-hazardous debris and waste made and are these being applied across the Gulf Coast region?



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EPA Evaluation

- Lessons learned website and database
 - Website to submit lessons learned and capture “smart practices”
 - Develop reports based on topic, geographic area, and subject



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Lessons Learned from WTC

- Overarching issues
- Competing concerns
- Risk communication
- Roles and responsibilities (who makes the call on safety?)



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WTC: Observations on Lessons Still Being Learned

- Monitoring capabilities
- Contingency planning
- Risk assessment
- Remediation



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Attorney General's Hurricane Fraud Task Force

Location: Johnson Hall, Louisiana State University,
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

5 Task Force Case Categories

Over 20 Task Force Participants





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Hurricane Task Force Investigative Activity

PCIE: Offices of Inspector General Actions*:

- 838 cases opened
- 33 arrests
- 19 indictments
- 1 conviction



Total Task Force Results Reported by DOJ
as of November 14, 2005:
79 persons charged in 63 separate cases**

*PCIE Biweekly agency data: Hurricanes Oversight 11/14/2005
**Task Force update 11/14/2005



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EPA-OIG Hurricane Related Investigative Activity

- Five EPA-OIG Investigators assigned to investigate allegations of Hurricane related procurement Fraud
- One Investigator assigned as the primary POC to the Hurricane Task Force in Baton Rouge
- Shared resources and joint investigative activity with Hurricane Task Force participants



- Access to FBI's Law Enforcement On-line Database



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Katrina-related Legislation

- Special Inspector General / Council
 - H.R. 3737, “Special Inspector General for Hurricane Katrina Recovery Act” (Kolbe)
 - H.R. 3805, “Special Office of the Inspector General for Natural Disaster Response and Reconstruction” (Meek)
 - H.R. 3810, “To establish a Special Inspectors General Council for Hurricane Katrina” (Platts/Davis)
 - S. 1738, “Special Inspector General for Relief and Reconstruction Act of 2005” (Collins)



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Katrina-related Legislation

- Katrina CFO
 - S. 1700, “Oversight of Vital Emergency Recovery Spending Enhancement and Enforcement Act of 2005” (Coburn)
- Gulf Coast Recovery Agency
 - S. 1863, Gulf Coast Recovery and Preparedness Act of 2005” (Gregg/Kennedy)



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