



**Role of Auditors in
Overseeing Disaster
Planning and Assistance**

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EMO





Overview

- Lessons Learned
- The Auditors' Role
- Looking Ahead

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Hurricane Katrina

- 1,464 lives lost; 135 missing (August 2006)
- Over 1.3 million displaced residents relocated across 50 states
- 220,000 jobs lost
- 204,700 housing units damaged or destroyed
- 90,000 Square miles of damage

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Lessons Learned

Presidents Council on Integrity and Efficiency - PCIE

- Assess our collective performance and share information regarding disaster spending
- Discuss ways to improve and coordinate our oversight activities
- Make recommendations that help strengthen the program implementation and accountability
- Monitor the status of open recommendations

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Since

- 118 major disaster declarations
- Many states and regions
- Significant government funding



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Fuel for Change

- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Legislation
- National Response Framework



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Auditors Role

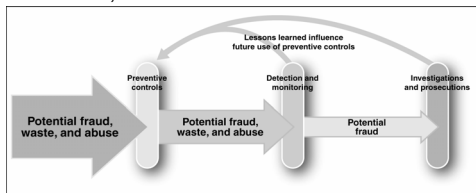
- Independent and Objective
- Oversight
- Accountability
- Recommend policies that:
 - ✓ promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the administration of
 - ✓ prevent and detect fraud and abuse

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DHS-OIG

- Working together
- Timeliness
- Fraud, waste and abuse



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In the works at DHS-OIG

- Emergency Management Oversight Team
- Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Audit of Disaster Response

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EMOT

Emergency Management Oversight Team


- Arrive timely
- Small specialized team
- Independent and objective
- Monitoring disaster response and recovery activities
- Provide an additional resource for proactive evaluation
- Ensure accountability for federally provided funds

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Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Audit of Disaster Response

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Purpose

- Build on oversight initiatives that resulted from Hurricane Katrina in August 2005
- Implement lessons learned recommendations applicable to all types of disasters

- Recognize the role of audit oversight as an important tool
- Not intended to interfere with the responsibilities of participating government audit organizations.

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Mission

- Strengthen the process and improve the results of disaster response and recovery efforts by helping Federal, State and local governments become as effective as possible in:
 - 1) acquiring the goods and services to meet national disaster needs, and fulfill social and policy objectives
 - 2) distributing, receiving and expending grants and mission assignments needed to carry out government operations.

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Mission

- Efforts will be coordinated with the President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency (PCIE) and the Executive Council on Integrity and Efficiency (ECIE) community to help mitigate risks and challenges in future emergencies and thereby minimize the level of fraud, waste, and abuse in federal disaster response and recovery.

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Goal 1

- Assure effective and efficient government audit oversight of disaster programs between and among federal, state and local government audit organizations through:
 - 1) coordination,
 - 2) communication,
 - 3) planning, and
 - 4) information exchanges

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Goal 2



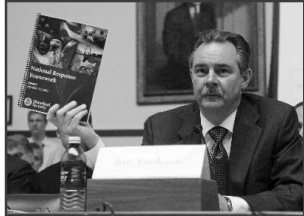
- Identify opportunities for staff training on disaster programs

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Goal 3

- Inclusion of oversight by government audit organizations as an element in the National Response Framework



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Goal 4

- Continued meetings and forums to encourage discussion of activities, issues and general concerns relating to audit oversight of disaster related expenditures.
 - PCIE
 - NIAF
 - NSAA
 - Other venues?

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Needs

Each audit agency has a role:

- Mission Assignments
- Disaster Acquisitions
- Grants



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Issues

Many issues need to be discussed:

- Data Sharing
- Duplicative Programs
- Federal and State Preparedness
- Funding
- Single Audits
- Law Enforcement
- Others?

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