

# FEMA FLAWS COULD MEAN DISASTER FOR DISASTERS

## QUICK STATS:

- ✘ **CONFERENCE:** Spending
- ✘ **TEAM:** Federal Emergency Management Agency
- **FUMBLE:** \$247 million+ in underutilized technology system
- **HOW TO RECOVER THE BALL:** Exercise congressional oversight to ensure FEMA fully implements funding and their internal procedures to improve efficiency

Americans are sadly too familiar with weather-related tragedies. In neighborhoods all across the nation, tornadoes, floods, or earthquakes have destroyed homes and priceless belongings. In many cases shortly after humanitarian support arrives, so does FEMA with a check to help cover the cost of the damage. For those in immediate need, it is quite a relief—until several months later when they receive letters requesting the money be returned because FEMA realized those individuals did not qualify for funds in the first place.

Congress's evaluation of FEMA's poor response to Hurricane Katrina led to spending \$247 million to create the Logistics Supply Chain Management System, which is intended to help the agency work with other parts of the federal government and non-profit aid organizations after a disaster.<sup>310</sup> Unfortunately, a recent audit of the program found FEMA does not seem to know how to actually utilize the system to coordinate aid after a disaster.<sup>311</sup> Apparently part of the reason FEMA could not properly set up the system is that it has not properly trained its employees, which really discredits the

American taxpayers' investment of \$247 million.<sup>312</sup>

To FEMA's credit, after major tornadic storms in Oklahoma in 2013, the agency successfully cooperated with numerous faith-based and non-profit groups on the ground to provide important assistance to families in need. Oklahomans are grateful for that assistance, but FEMA can certainly work toward greater efficiency.

## RECOVERY

Congress needs to continue to exercise its oversight duties to ensure FEMA fully implements the IG's recommendations: (1) conduct an assessment of the LSCMS program to identify resources necessary to ensure effective management and oversight of the program, and (2) develop an internal process to monitor and ensure accurate LSCMS reporting to OMB. FEMA must implement processes and procedures to improve efficiency to ensure that when families receive aid after a disaster, it does not come back a few months later to demand its return.

***For more information, please visit:***

[DHS OIG: FEMA's Logistics Supply Chain Management System May Not Be Effective During a Catastrophic Disaster](#)  
[FEMA: LSCMS Logistics Supply Chain Management System](#)