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Flawed FEMA System Could Hamper Disaster Relief

After spending more than \$247 million on a high-tech system, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) may still not be able to efficiently deliver emergency supplies to survivors of a catastrophic disaster, an Office of Inspector General (OIG) audit has found.

OIG Report 14-151, "FEMA's Logistics Supply Chain Management System May Not Be Effective During a Catastrophic Disaster," found the system, developed over nine years, cannot interface with those of its partners and suppliers, making it difficult to track and locate emergency supplies. The report also noted that FEMA does not have enough trained employees to efficiently operate the system.

"One of FEMA's prime missions is to immediately provide survivors with three days' worth of basic emergency supplies," said Inspector General John Roth. "As presently configured, this supply chain system is not up to that task."

The OIG made recommendations to improve the system, which is supposed to speed the delivery of food, water, blankets, generators and other relief items.

Read Report: OIG 14-151 FEMA's Logistics Supply Chain Management System May Not Be Effective During a Catastrophic Disaster

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