




FEMA

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MEMORANDUM FOR: James W. Stark
Acting Associate Deputy Administrator
Gulf Coast Recovery Office

Robert Ives
Acting Director
Florida Long Term Recovery Office

FROM: Carlos J. Castillo 
Assistant Administrator
Disaster Assistance Directorate

SUBJECT: Clarification
Labor Costs – Emergency Work
Recovery Policy RP9525.7

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide clarification for the application of the subject policy and related documents to certain situations in the 2005 major disaster and emergency declarations for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Specifically, this guidance applies to the firefighters who performed eligible work in the following Gulf Coast declarations in 2005: FEMA-1602, 1603, 1604, 1605, 1606, and 1607-DR and FEMA-3212, 3213, 3214, 3259, 3260, and 3261-EM.

Due to the unprecedented requirement for sustained life-saving and life-sustaining support generated by the devastation Hurricanes Katrina and Rita caused along the gulf coast, we have determined that overtime claimed by firefighters, up to 24 hours per day for the first 14 days after the declaration date of each disaster, may be eligible for reimbursement. This determination is based on a reasonable expectation that, during the first two weeks of the disaster response, firefighters who reported to their stations or other designated dispatch locations were required to perform disaster-related tasks full time with only minimal breaks. The regular shift portion of a firefighter's time is not eligible for reimbursement. Documentation requirements for eligible firefighters should include the time that each employee reported in and out of the station. Individual response calls during the two week period do not have to be documented. This special exception does not apply to other responders as it is believed that only firefighters have 24-hour shift arrangements. Responders other than firefighters may have extended periods of time greater than 16 hours per day approved if the actual performance of disaster related tasks is documented including a description of the tasks performed.

Project worksheets may be approved and obligated on the basis of time claimed in accordance with the above guidance. Actual disbursement by the Grantee (State) will depend on timing of the expenditure by the subgrantee so that it meets the requirements of 44 CFR Part 13.

If you have questions, please contact James A. Walke, Director of the Public Assistance Division, at 202-646-2751.