




Memorandum

May 8, 2003

SUBJECT: Congressional Hearings on Disaster Relief**FROM:** Keith Bea 
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The following list of hearings presents information on congressional investigations held on federal disaster relief assistance provided after significant catastrophes have occurred in the United States. The listing, based upon a review of holdings in our files as well as a search of the database maintained by Congressional Information Services, Inc., (CIS), focuses only on those hearings in which Members or witnesses discussed the quality or quantity of assistance that was provided, or the needs of communities and victims after a catastrophe.¹ Keywords used in the search included various terms associated with catastrophes, disasters, response, and relief.

The list does not include citations to hearings concerned with the adequacy of technology or other technical matters, the preparation of communities for terrorist attacks, pending legislation that would amend statutes authorizing disaster relief, or other matters not related to an investigation of the disaster relief assistance provided by the federal government. Hearing summaries set out by quotation marks are taken verbatim from the CIS entry for each hearing. Summaries not bracketed by quotation marks were developed based on an examination of the opening statement of the committee or subcommittee chair.

107th Congress

U.S. Congress, House Committee on Small Business, *Disaster Loan Size Standards*, hearing, 107th Cong., 2nd sess., Feb. 27, 2002 (Washington: GPO, 2002), 68 p.

“Hearing to review SBA disaster loan size standards policies, in light of adverse impact of size standards on eligibility of small businesses for economic injury disaster loans to assist in recovery from Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the U.S. that destroyed the World Trade Center in NYC and damaged the Pentagon outside D.C.”

¹ Rita Tehan of the Information Research Division of CRS (phone: 7-6739) completed the database search.

U.S. Congress, Senate Committee on Appropriations, *FEMA's Role in Terrorism Response*, hearing 107th Cong., 2nd sess., Feb. 27, 2002 (Washington: GPO, 2003), 29 p.

Examination of FEMA's role in responding to acts of terrorism.

U.S. Congress, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, *FEMA's Response to the September 11th Attacks*, hearing, 107th Cong., 1st sess., Oct. 16, 2001 (Washington: GPO, 2003), 57 p.

Discussion of the emergency response to the terrorist attacks of September 11.

U.S. Congress, House Committee on Small Business, *90 Days After Sept. 11th: How are Small Businesses Being Helped*, hearing, 107th Cong., 1st sess., Dec. 6, 2001 (Washington: GPO, 2002), 94 p.

"Hearing to review SBA efforts to assist small businesses impacted by the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the U.S. that destroyed the World Trade Center in NYC and damaged the Pentagon outside D.C."

U.S. Congress, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, *Psychological Trauma and Terrorism: Assuring That Americans Receive the Support They Need*, hearing, 107th Cong., 1st sess., Sept. 26, 2001 (Washington: GPO, 2002), 45 p.

"Hearing to examine the psychological impact on Americans of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the U.S. that destroyed the World Trade Center in NYC and damaged the Pentagon near D.C. Also reviews recommendations to respond to the mental health needs of Americans in light of the attacks."

U.S. Congress, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, *Examining Minnesota's Economy After Sept. 11th: Strategies for Workforce and Business Recovery*, hearing, 107th Cong., 1st sess., Oct. 8, 2001 (Washington: GPO, 2002), 64 p.

"Hearing in Bloomington, Minn., before the Subcommittee on Employment, Safety, and Training to examine adverse impact on Minnesota economy of Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the U.S. that destroyed the World Trade Center in NYC and damaged the Pentagon outside D.C."

106th Congress

U.S. Congress, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, *Federal Response to Weather Related Disasters in North Carolina*, hearing, 106th Cong., 2nd sess, April 28, 2000 (Washington: GPO, 2000), 59 p.

"Hearing in Carthage, N.C., before the Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Emergency Management to examine FEMA disaster relief operations, focusing on response to Jan. 2000 snowstorm in North Carolina."

U.S. Congress, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, *U.S. Relief Efforts in Response to Hurricane Mitch*, hearing, 106th Cong., 1st sess., March 2, 1999 (Washington: GPO, 1999), 30 p.

“Hearing before the Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Peace Corps, Narcotics, and Terrorism to examine disaster relief efforts in response to damage caused by Hurricane Mitch in Honduras and other Central American countries, and to consider recommendations regarding federal disaster assistance programs.”

105th Congress

U.S. Congress, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, *Recent Flooding in California*, hearing, 105th Cong., 1st sess., March 19, 1997 (Washington: GPO, 1997), 321 p.

“Hearing before the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment to examine January 1997 flood damages in California and to review the response of federal agencies to disaster needs. Also reviews federal, state, and local flood control programs and policies.”

104th Congress

U.S. Congress, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, *Federal Response to Hurricane Fran*, hearing, 104th cong., 2nd sess., Oct. 2, 1996 (Washington: GPO, 1997), 94 p.

Review of the federal response, particularly that of FEMA, to large disasters, with a focus on Hurricane Fran’s impact on North Carolina and Virginia.

U.S. Congress, House Committee on Government Reform, *The Government’s Response to the Northridge Earthquake*, hearing, 104th Cong., 2nd sess., January 19, 1996 (Washington: GPO, 1996), 176 p.

“Hearing in Northridge, California, before the Subcommittee on Government Management, Information, and Technology to examine the federal government response to disaster needs following the January 17, 1994 earthquake in the Los Angeles, California, area, centered in Northridge.”

103rd Congress

U.S. Congress, House Committee on Public Works and Transportation, *Northridge Earthquake: Extent of Damage and Federal Response*, hearing, 103rd Cong., 2nd sess., April 11, 1994 (Washington: GPO, 1994), 178 p.

“Hearing in Los Angeles, California to review federal agency response to Los Angeles area disaster aid needs resulting from the January 17, 1994 earthquake centered at Northridge, California.”

U.S. Congress, Senate Committee on the Environment and Public Works, *Response to the California Earthquake*, hearing, 103rd Cong., 2nd sess., January 27, 1994 (Washington: GPO, 1994), 37 p.

“Hearing to review DOT disaster relief efforts in response to the January 17, 1994 Los Angeles earthquake, which caused extensive damage to municipal area highways.”

U.S. Congress, House Committee on Small Business, *SBA Disaster Assistance Programs*, hearing, 103rd Cong., 1st sess., Nov. 19, 1993 (Washington: GPO, 1993), 73 p.

“Hearing to review the SBA disaster loan program, including effectiveness of program response to Summer 1993 heavy flooding along the Mississippi River.”

U.S. Congress, Senate Committee on the Environment and Public Works, *Federal Response to the Midwest Floods of 1993*, hearing, 103rd Cong., 1st sess., Nov. 9, 1993 (Washington: GPO, 1993), 68 p.

“Hearing to review the federal response to 1993 extensive flooding along the Mississippi River and its tributaries, including FEMA disaster planning and relief operations.”

U.S. Congress, House Committee on Public Works and Transportation, *Federal Response to Midwest Flooding*, hearing, 103rd Cong., 1st sess., Oct. 28, 1993 (Washington: GPO, 1994), 217 p.

Review of the performance of FEMA and other federal agencies in response to the needs of victims of the Midwest floods.

U.S. Congress, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, *Lessons Learned from Hurricane Andrew*, hearing, 103rd Cong., 1st sess., April 19, 1993 (Washington: GPO, 1993), 137 p.

Review of lessons learned after destruction caused by Hurricane Andrew, including recovery efforts and assistance.

U.S. Congress, House Committee on Public Works and Transportation, *Federal Emergency Management Agency's Disaster Assistance Program*, hearing, 103rd Cong., 1st sess., March 2, 1993 (Washington: GPO, 1993), 356 p.

“Hearing before the Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight to examine the effectiveness of FEMA disaster relief response to recent natural disasters, focusing on 1992 Hurricane Andrew in Florida. Also reviews federal, state, and local roles in disaster preparedness and response.”

U.S. Congress, Senate Committee on Appropriations, *Federal Disaster Policy and Future of Federal Emergency Management, Special Hearing*, hearing, 103rd Cong., 1st sess., Jan. 27, 1993 (Washington: GPO, 1993), 238 p.

“Hearing before the Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Appropriations to review federal disaster policy, focusing on FEMA disaster planning and relief operations in light of federal response to the August 1992 Hurricane Andrew in Florida.”

102nd Congress

U.S. Congress, House Committee on Public Works and Transportation, *Federal Emergency Management Agency's Disaster Relief Program*, hearing, 102nd Cong., 1st sess., May 15, 1991 (Washington: GPO, 1991), 256 p.

Continuation of the review by the Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight of FEMA's disaster relief efforts after Hurricane Hugo and the Loma Prieta earthquake.

101st Congress

U.S. Congress, House Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs, *Aftermath of Hurricane Agnes*, hearing, 101st Cong., 2nd sess., June 22, 1990 (Washington: GPO, 1990), 224 p.

Review of how disaster assistance, flood insurance, and flood control projects help indemnify victims of flood disasters, 18 years after Hurricane Agnes.

U.S. Congress, House Committee on Public Works and Transportation, *Federal Emergency Management Agency's Response to Natural Disasters*, hearings, 101st Cong., 2nd sess., May 1 and 2, 1990 (Washington: GPO, 1991), 357 p.

U.S. Congress, House Committee on Banking, Finance, and Urban Affairs, *Housing Needs in Earthquake Disaster Areas*, hearing, 101st Cong., 2nd sess., April 11, 12, 1990 (Washington: GPO, 1990), 1,217 p.

“Hearings before the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Development Ad Hoc Panel on Housing Assistance in Earthquake Disaster Areas to examine continuing housing aid needs and federal assistance programs in northern California areas affected by the October 17, 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. Focuses on the adequacy of FEMA housing assistance efforts.”

U.S. Congress, Senate Committee on the Environment and Public Works, *To Consider Current Federal Disaster Relief Efforts*, hearing, 101st Cong., 1st sess., October 23, 1989 (Washington: GPO, 1989), 82 p.

“Hearing before the Subcommittee on Water Resources, Transportation, and Infrastructure to examine infrastructure safety issues in light of highway and bridge damage caused by the October 17, 1989 earthquake in California. Includes brief consideration of S. 1775 to authorize the use of Highway Trust Fund monies for the repair or reconstruction of highways included in the Federal Aid Highway Program in norther California which were damaged by the October 17, 1989 earthquake.”

I trust this material meets your needs. Please call (7-8672) if you have further questions.

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