



Boone County Fire Protection District

News Release

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Columbia, Missouri

For Immediate Release

U.S. Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General Releases Boone County Fire District/Missouri Task Force One FY2002-2006 Audit

The Office of Inspector General of the U. S. Department of Homeland Security released, on July 6, 2009, an audit of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) preparedness grants and deployment reimbursements provided to the Boone County Fire Protection District under cooperative agreements for the fiscal years 2002 – 2006. The cooperative agreements covered the calendar period of September 27, 2002 through December 5, 2007 and were used to support the operations of Missouri Task Force One. The audit also reviewed six Missouri Task Force One deployments to disaster events that occurred between 2005 and 2007. The Boone County Fire Protection District is the sponsoring organization for Missouri Task Force One. Missouri Task Force One is one of the 28 task forces managed and supported by FEMA's National Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Response System Program.

FEMA's US&R program provides a framework for coordinating local emergency service organizations and personnel into integrated disaster response task forces such as Missouri Task Force One. FEMA also provides financial assistance and manages and administers preparedness grants to all 28 sponsoring agencies. The financial assistance helps to

develop and maintain Missouri Task Force One's capabilities by providing funding for training, equipment and supplies and other needs to ensure preparedness for emergency response deployments as well as reimbursement of expenses for deployment activities as outlined in the cooperative agreements.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security audit lists several findings relating to both FEMA and the Boone County Fire Protection District, sponsoring agency of Missouri Task Force One. Both the Fire District and FEMA disagree with several of these findings. However, the audit provides detailed findings that could possibly result in the return of \$752,453.00 to FEMA from the Boone County Fire District.

The Fire District has submitted a written response to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on their audit findings and has also forwarded these responses to FEMA, who has also submitted written responses to DHS. As a result of these written responses, the FEMA Program Office will be performing an audit review of Missouri Task Force One on August 24, 2009. This audit review will allow FEMA and Missouri Task Force One to review all documentation and records maintained by the Boone County Fire District, sponsoring agency of Missouri Task Force One. At the conclusion of this audit review, FEMA will prepare a final determination.

The Boone County Fire Protection District, as the sponsoring agency for Missouri Task Force One, will aggressively defend our position to the fullest extent possible. The Boone County Fire Protection District is hopeful that these matters will be favorably resolved.

For further information on the audit please use the following address. http://www.dhs.gov/xoig/assets/auditrpts/OIG_DS-09-06_Jun09.pdf . Media inquires may be made to Fire District Board Chairman David Griggs by calling 573-449-2619 or contacting the Boone County Fire Protection District Public Information Officer at 573-447-5000.