



AUG 26 2011

GSA Acquisition Alert 2011-05

MEMORANDUM FOR GSA CONTRACTING ACTIVITIES

FROM: JOSEPH A. NEURAUTER  
SENIOR PROCUREMENT EXECUTIVE AND  
DEPUTY CHIEF ACQUISITION OFFICER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Neurauter", written over the typed name and title.

SUBJECT: Emergency Procurement Authority

Hurricane Irene is expected to have a major impact on Regions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 11 this weekend.

The following information is provided in the event the General Services Administration (GSA) is required to respond to relief efforts relating to Hurricane Irene.

Heads of Contracting Activities (HCAs) in each affected region, working in conjunction with Regional Emergency Coordinators (RECs) are in the best position to activate its emergency response coordination process to respond effectively to regional emergency needs. To ensure there is adequate, warranted contracting support, HCAs are encouraged to consider:

- Need for increasing existing warrant levels of Regional contracting officers
- Need for key personnel availability such as legal and budget support
- Need for contract administration support
- Need for additional Contracting Officer support from other regions.

In addition, HCAs may grant higher temporary contracting authority during domestic or national security emergencies for basic, simplified acquisition and intermediate warrant holders. HCAs may issue emergency warrants with authority limited to response to the emergency only. However, the HCA must have reasonable assurance that the associate is eligible to be warranted. Contracting officers may enter into contracts on behalf of a GSA organization different from the organization specified in their Certificate of Appointment. Thus, FAS warranted contracting officers may assist PBS responses without a need for a new warrant.

Questions pertaining to warrant authority under emergency conditions should be directed to [Ellis.Osiname@gsa.gov](mailto:Ellis.Osiname@gsa.gov), 201.501.0049, or [Deborah.Eble@gsa.gov](mailto:Deborah.Eble@gsa.gov), 215.446.5823, 215.817.9754.

Regional HCAs and RECs are reminded that national acquisition management divisions (PBS, FAS and OGP) are available to assist if additional contracting resources are needed. Contact information is contained in the Attachment.

Section 1443 of the Services Acquisition Reform Act of 2003 41 U.S.C. 428a, (recently recodified as 41 U.S.C. 1903), provides authority to increase thresholds for micro-purchases, simplified acquisition and commercial items test program for the acquisition of goods and services by or for an executive agency that, as determined by the head of the agency, are to be used in support of a contingency operation, **if** the Secretary of the Department of Defense determines that circumstances warrant the exercise of the authority set forth at 41 U.S.C. 1903. These emergency acquisition flexibilities are described at FAR 18.201. In the event that a contingency operation is declared, the GSA Senior Procurement Executive would be the one to raise the thresholds for GSA contracting officials.

Contracting activities are reminded that many other acquisition flexibilities are available to contracting officers as identified in FAR Subpart 18.1. Further, in accordance with FAR 18.203, when contracting for major disaster or emergency assistance activities, preference is to be given to local organizations, firms, and individuals when the President has made a declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. Preference may take the form of local area side-set or an evaluation preference. Contracting officers are directed to FAR subpart 26.2 for guidance. Note that 26.203 discusses the statutory requirement that emergency response and reconstruction work be transitioned to local businesses. FAR 26.204 addresses the statutory requirement for a justification to spend emergency response contract funds on a non-local firm, after a Presidential declaration of a major disaster or emergency.

In addition, you are encouraged to utilize small businesses where practicable to meet emergency requirements and to obtain competition where practicable, even if circumstances require limiting competition to a limited number of sources.

Remember, existing laws and regulations provide considerable flexibility for acquisitions that support urgent situations and contingency operations. Some of these flexibilities are the Schedules program, the Government-wide Acquisition Contracts (GWAC) program, letter contracts, multiple award indefinite delivery indefinite quantity (IDIQ) contracts, single award IDIQ contracts, and the purchase cards.

Also, a combined synopsis and solicitation can be used to reduce the time required to solicit and award contracts for commercial items. FAR Part 6 provides the authority to limit competition when the need arises, but be mindful of the additional justification and approval thresholds identified at FAR 13.501 (a).

On August 22, 2011, the President issued an emergency declaration related to Hurricane Irene response efforts for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. On August 25, 2011, the Department of Homeland Security made a formal request to the General Services Administration to establish a new NIA code in FPDS-NG for use in reporting and tracking acquisitions made in response to Hurricane Irene not limited to Puerto Rico. A new NIA code, "H111" was added to FPDS-NG on August 25, 2011.

The NIA code will be used strictly for reporting purposes, and does not authorize the use of any emergency acquisition flexibilities contained at Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) 18.201 (i.e., increases in the micro-purchase, simplified acquisition or commercial items test program thresholds). These flexibilities may only be used if the GSA SPE determines that the thresholds are to be raised.

Please be advised that contingency operations have not been declared at this time. You will be notified separately in the event of such a declaration

Attachment

National Acquisition Management Divisions:

FAS

**Taylor, Houston W.** Assistant Commissioner for Acquisition Manage  
[houston.taylor@gsa.gov](mailto:houston.taylor@gsa.gov)

Phone:(703) 605-2759  
Cell:(703) 898-0997  
Blackberry  
Pin:30FF2442

**Grant, Lisa P.** Program Management Officer  
[lisa.grant@gsa.gov](mailto:lisa.grant@gsa.gov)

Phone:(703) 605-3589  
Cell:(703) 459-5032  
Blackberry Pin:30CA9ADC

**McDowell, Chiara A.** Procurement Analyst  
[chiara.mcdowell@gsa.gov](mailto:chiara.mcdowell@gsa.gov)

Phone:(703) 605-3652  
Cell:(703) 589-3211  
Blackberry Pin:30EF0892

PBS

**Davis, Bobby J.** Supervisory Contract Specialist  
[bobby.davis@gsa.gov](mailto:bobby.davis@gsa.gov)

Phone:(817) 978-0193  
Fax:(817) 978-2577  
Cell:(817) 829-2436  
Blackberry Pin:3154E158

**Smith, Jennifer L.** Supervisory Procurement Analyst  
[jennifer.smith@gsa.gov](mailto:jennifer.smith@gsa.gov)

Phone:(202) 501-4994  
Blackberry Pin:30F9D92B

OGP

**Neurauter, Joseph A.** Deputy Chief Acquisition Officer/SPE  
[joseph.neurauter@gsa.gov](mailto:joseph.neurauter@gsa.gov)

Phone:(202) 219-3454  
Cell:(202) 731-5195  
Blackberry Pin:32D15615

**Kimbro, David B.** Supervisory Procurement Analyst  
[david.kimbro@gsa.gov](mailto:david.kimbro@gsa.gov)

Phone:(404) 331-3223  
Cell:(404) 387-6824  
Blackberry Pin:31297D0A

**Teti, Christopher J.** Procurement Analyst  
[chris.teti@gsa.gov](mailto:chris.teti@gsa.gov)

Phone:(215) 446-2851  
Fax:(215) 209-0427  
Cell:(215) 704-0892  
Blackberry  
Pin:30B7D98B