

Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs and State Emergency Council

Department helps coordinate emergency management efforts throughout the State, but did not consistently develop and track corrective actions to address some emergency response deficiencies, impacting its ability to address these deficiencies during real-world emergency responses, and did not comply with some State conflict-of-interest requirements

Audit purpose

To determine whether the Department developed and tracked the completion of corrective actions to address emergency-response deficiencies in accordance with applicable requirements and best practices and complied with State conflict-of-interest requirements and recommended practices, and to provide responses to the statutory sunset factors for the Department and State Emergency Council.

Key findings

The Department:

- Performs various activities to carry out its statutory responsibilities, such as providing training and conducting exercises for State and local entities, providing and coordinating emergency management services, and coordinating the deployment of the National Guard for State emergencies or national contingencies.
- Developed policies and procedures for correcting deficiencies in its emergency responses that aligned with some accreditation standards and federal guidance but did not develop corrective actions to address 3 of 93 emergency-response deficiencies or consistently track the status and completion of 103 of 127 corrective actions we reviewed, impacting its ability to address deficiencies during real-world emergencies.
- Did not comply with some State conflict-of-interest requirements and fully align its conflict-of-interest process with recommended practices, increasing the risk that employees did not disclose substantial interests that might influence or affect their official conduct.

The State Emergency Council:

- Is responsible for monitoring each State emergency and approving the use of State General Fund monies to assist State and local entities recover and rebuild from State emergencies, and approved the allocation of more than \$6.9 million for emergencies across the State in fiscal years 2020 through 2022.

Key recommendations

The Department should:

- Develop, implement, and track the status and completion of corrective actions for emergency-response deficiencies.
- Develop and/or update and implement conflict-of-interest policies and procedures to help ensure compliance with State conflict-of-interest requirements.