

NEWS RELEASE



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney
Laura E. Duffy***

For Further Information, Contact: Assistant U. S. Attorney James P. Melendres (619) 557-6327

For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - March 14, 2011

United States Attorney Laura E. Duffy announced that Cynthia D. Magee was sentenced today to serve 27 months in prison, following her guilty plea to an indictment charging her with fraudulently obtaining more than \$20,000 in disaster relief following Hurricane Katrina. United States District Judge Larry A. Burns additionally ordered Magee to pay \$20,572 in restitution and serve three years of supervised release after her release from prison.

According to court records, shortly after Hurricane Katrina made landfall on August 29, 2005, Magee submitted a claim for disaster relief to Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), in which she falsely stated that her primary residence was located in New Orleans, Louisiana and subsequently improperly received more than \$14,000 in FEMA benefits. Magee further admitted that she traveled throughout the Gulf Coast region collecting American Red Cross disaster-relief debit cards by falsely claiming to reside in Louisiana and Mississippi and receiving more than \$5,000 in disaster assistance funds.

The investigation leading to the charges was conducted by agents with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Postal Inspection Service.

This case was brought as part of this District's partnership with the National Center for Disaster Fraud (NCDF), a nationwide initiative to protect available funds and assistance for those victims of both natural and man-made disasters such as hurricanes, floods, and tornadoes.

If you have knowledge of fraud, waste, abuse, or allegations of mismanagement involving disaster relief operations, you can contact the NCDF by calling the hotline at (866) 720-5721. You can also fax information to (225) 334-4707 or e-mail it to disaster@leo.gov

DEFENDANT

Case Number: 10cr3466-LAB

Cynthia D. Magee
aka Cynthia Magee Turner, Cynthia D. Turner, Cynthia Turner

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001 (False Statement)

Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343 (Wire Fraud)

AGENCIES

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Postal Inspection Service