



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney John Dowdy  
Southern District of Mississippi

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## **FLORIDA MAN GUILTY OF KATRINA FRAUD**

Gulfport, Miss - Wendell W. Hollis, 43, of Panama City, FL, was found guilty by a jury, after a three day trial, of theft of public funds, i.e., FEMA Katrina federal disaster assistance funds, for receiving personal property funds in the amount of \$7,512.00, plus rental and housing assistance in the amount of \$18,634.00 for a total of \$26,146.15 . Hollis claimed, in his multiple requests to FEMA for assistance, that his place of residency and occupancy at the time of Hurricane Katrina was Lot 324 at the Isle of Pines trailer park in Gautier, MS. During the trial, the United States submitted documents and testimony reflecting otherwise, and the jury found him guilty.

This case was investigated by the Office of Inspector General- Dept of Homeland Security, and was initiated as a result of a tip received on the Katrina Fraud Hotline. Hollis will be sentencing on August 24, 2011 at 1:30 pm. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Andrea C. Jones and Jay Golden prosecuted the case.