



Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

Timeline of Attacks

- **February 5, 2025:** The Department of Homeland Security offered a "deferred resignation" to Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) employees. Under this agreement, 174 employees resigned.
- **February 5, 2025:** DOGE staffers gained access to computer systems of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), a DHS subagency, including sensitive databases containing the personally identifiable information of tens of thousands of disaster victims.
- **February 10, 2025:** Elon Musk's inaccurate claims on X about FEMA spending on undocumented immigrants disrupted the flow of agency funds. Then-Acting FEMA Administrator Cameron Hamilton gave DOGE "full system access to our financial management system." In late February, FEMA imposed a "manual review" of all grants, resulting in a freeze on more than \$100 billion in payments.
- **February 14, 2025:** DOGE -fired an estimated 130 CISA employees.
- **February 18, 2025:** CISA staff members specifically focused on disinformation and foreign influence operations were placed on administrative leave.
- **February 19, 2025:** DOGE agent Edward Coristine was embedded at DHS and began targeting the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction (CWMD) Office's bio-detection program and CISA's Cybersecurity Advisory Division.
- **February 25, 2025:** DOGE began closing DHS agencies across the country.
- **February 2025:** The Trump administration -fired more than 200 "probationary" FEMA workers. Over 800 FEMA employees accepted a deferred resignation offer. A dozen senior leaders were among the 1,000-plus who were laid off or left FEMA.
- **March 8, 2025:** In-person disaster response and emergency management training at the National Fire Academy was abruptly halted and suspended as part of a DOGE "efficiency review" of government operations.
- **March 19, 2025:** House oversight Democrats requested a GAO review of DOGE's layoffs, embedded staff, and contract terminations at DHS.
- **April 4, 2025:** Reports indicated broader reductions at CISA could impact ~1,300 staff and contractors.
- **April 4, 2025:** FEMA eliminated the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program and rescinded more than \$3 billion in funding for climate adaptation and hazard mitigation projects that had been approved but not completed.
- **April 2025:** Roughly 1,000 additional FEMA employees, including many senior officials, sought early retirements or accepted buyouts amid DOGE-inflicted chaos.
- **June 3, 2025:** Axios reported that roughly 1,000 employees had left CISA through reductions in force or resignations.
- **October 11, 2025:** DHS issued a reduction in force notice to 54 employees.



Impacts on Capacity

The staff levels at CISA were severely diminished by DOGE cuts, with nearly one third of the workforce [leaving](#) via terminations or resignations. The Cybersecurity Division, which [serves](#) to “fortify the nation’s cyber defenses against immediate threats and vulnerabilities,” was hit particularly hard, losing close to 200 of its 1,100 employees.

The forced departure of roughly up to [33%](#) of FEMA’s permanent full-time staff by May 1—including senior executives and critical coordinating officers—[decimated](#) the agency’s operational capacity and undermined training and planning. At the start of the 2025 hurricane season on June 1, FEMA [had](#) almost 800 fewer disaster workers available than the year prior and [roughly half](#) as many staff trained to respond to disasters as in May 2024. All of FEMA’s most senior leadership positions were [filled](#) by DHS personnel with little to no disaster management expertise.

The [elimination](#) of the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant program and the [halt](#) to climate adaptation and hazard mitigation work destroyed FEMA’s ability to fund projects that reduce future disaster risk. The [removal](#) of equity and climate considerations from mitigation planning guides increased the likelihood that low-income and vulnerable communities would be overlooked.

Material Harms

For more on the administration’s mishandling of natural disasters, see our [Disaster Policy Tracker](#).

The systematic dismantling of FEMA directly led to catastrophic failures in disaster response. During the deadly Central Texas floods in July 2025:

- Call center worker contracts were [allowed](#) to lapse, leaving thousands of calls for assistance unanswered.
- DHS Secretary Kristi Noem [waited](#) over 72 hours to authorize the deployment of Urban Search and Rescue Teams.
- Requests for critical aerial imagery to aid rescue operations were [stalled](#) awaiting political sign-off.
- The acting FEMA administrator was [unreachable](#) for over 24 hours and did not [visit](#) the disaster zone for nine days.

Since March 2025, DHS has made the allocation of funding—including the Emergency Management Performance Grant program used to train and pay state and local emergency management staff—[contingent](#) on cooperation with Trump’s crackdown on immigrants. This and Noem’s [requirement](#) for political approval of all contracts over \$100,000 [paralyzed](#) the agency’s ability to disburse congressionally appropriated funds, [impeding](#) preparedness and delaying recovery for communities across the country. An analysis [found](#) that proposed changes to federal assistance



thresholds would have disqualified 71% of major disasters declared from 2008-2024, depriving state and local governments of \$41 billion in aid.

Notable Names

Ousted Leadership

- **MaryAnn Tierney:** Acting deputy administrator [cited](#) the Trump administration's attacks on FEMA in her May [resignation letter](#).
- **Jeremy Greenberg:** The Director of the National Response Coordination Center, FEMA's "24-hour war room," [resigned](#) on June 11, one day after Trump announced plans to phase out the agency.
- **Ken Pagurek:** FEMA search and rescue chief [resigned](#) in the wake of Noem's delayed response to the Texas flooding disaster.

DOGE Agents

- **Edward Coristine**
- **Kyle Schutt**