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**OMB INTRODUCES KEY RESOURCE TO GIVE AGENCIES EASIER ACCESS TO
EMERGENCY RESPONSE INFORMATION**

WASHINGTON—The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has published in the Federal Register an addition to the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) that compiles information on all existing emergency procurement information into a single, easy-to-access source to help agencies effectively respond to emergency situations. The addition was published as an interim rule and is Part 18 to the FAR. Procurement officials will be able to use FAR Part 18 to find information quickly and streamline important processes such as proposal and payment measures during emergencies or major disasters.

FAR Part 18 does not change current acquisition rules or policies, but makes access to these rules and policies easier and less time-consuming. Previously, information on emergency procurement measures was not consolidated in the FAR. However, the new section created by the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) now provides contracting personnel with a single document that references all current regulatory flexibilities and authorities available to agencies during emergencies.

"The publication of the new FAR Part concludes an important regulatory initiative designed to improve the Government's ability to acquire critical goods and services during an emergency," said Robert Burton, Associate Administrator for OFPP. "Our concern was that it took too much time to identify all the measures and resources available to agencies during an emergency. This new FAR Part addresses those concerns and provides a valuable tool needed by agencies to quickly respond to disasters."

For more information on FAR Part18, visit:

http://acquisition.gov/far/FAC/fac2005-11_federal_register.pdf

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