



Alabama Emergency Management Agency Clanton, Alabama

October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2024

Filed: December 26, 2025

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
EXAMINERS of Public Accounts

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Honorable Rachel Laurie Riddle
Chief Examiner of Public Accounts
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Dear Madam:

An examination was conducted on the Alabama Emergency Management Agency, Clanton, Alabama, for the period October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2024, by Examiners Claudia Wise and Troy Eastman. I, Claudia Wise, served as Examiner-in-Charge on the engagement, and under the authority of the *Code of Alabama 1975*, Section 41-5A-19, I hereby swear to and submit this report to you on the results of the examination.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia Wise.

Claudia Wise
Examiner of Public Accounts

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EXAMINER'S SUMMARY

**Emergency Management Agency
October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2024**

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF EXAMINATION

This report presents the results of an examination of the Emergency Management Agency (the "Agency") and a review of the Agency's compliance with applicable laws and regulations of the State of Alabama. This examination was conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts under the authority of the *Code of Alabama 1975*, Section 41-5A-12. The examination was performed to determine whether the public officers, agents, and employees of the Agency properly and lawfully accounted for all money and other public assets, or resources received, disbursed, or in the custody of the Agency.

This examination included procedures to determine whether the Agency complied with the state laws and regulations that pertain to its financial transactions; personnel; safeguarding of state-owned assets, property, and resources; information dissemination, processing, and retention; and official actions, rulemaking procedures, and meetings. The Agency's internal control policies and procedures relating to the areas listed above were also reviewed; however, this examination did not encompass managerial and operational matters, such as whether the Agency accomplished its mission or its regulatory, enforcement, investigative, or other oversight activities in an efficient, fair, timely, or legal manner.

The mission and purpose of the Agency is described in the accompanying Agency Overview.

RESULTS OF THE EXAMINATION

Nonconsumable personal property in the custody of the Agency was compared with the property records maintained by the Property Inventory Control Division of the State Auditor's Office as required by the *Code of Alabama 1975*, Section 36-16-9. Testing revealed no discrepancies.

Finding

The following instance of noncompliance with State laws and regulations and other matters was found during the examination, as shown on the Schedule of State Legal Compliance and Other Findings and it is summarized below.

- ◆ 2024-001: The Agency has not complied with certain provisions of ***Executive Order 2015-50*** issued by the Governor. This was previously reported as Finding 2018-003.

EXIT CONFERENCE

An exit conference was held on December 8, 2025. Individuals in attendance were Lisa Castaldo, Executive Operations Officer and Leigh McKee, Chief Financial Officer, along with Claudia Wise, Troy Eastman and Brad Grier from the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts.



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AGENCY OVERVIEW

**Emergency Management Agency
October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2024**

The Emergency Management Agency (the “Agency”) operates under the authority of the *Code of Alabama 1975*, Sections 31-9-1 through 31-9-140. The Agency exists to ensure that the State’s preparations are adequate to deal with disasters or emergencies resulting from enemy attack/sabotage, fire, flood, earthquake or other natural causes; to provide for the common defense and protection of the public peace, health and safety; to preserve the lives and property of the people of the State; and to promote mutual aid among federal, state, and local governments.

The Agency’s mission is to support citizens, strengthen communities, and build a culture of preparedness through a comprehensive Emergency Management (EM) program.

The Agency’s Director is appointed by the Governor and serves as the head of the Agency.

Additional information about the Emergency Management Agency can be found on their website at www.ema.alabama.gov.

*Schedule of State Legal
Compliance and Other Findings*

Schedule of State Legal Compliance and Other Findings
October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2024

Ref. No.	Finding/Noncompliance
2024-001	<p><u>Finding:</u> The Emergency Management Agency (the “Agency”) has not complied with certain provisions of <i>Executive Order 2015-50</i> issued by the Governor. The Agency could not provide documentation that the recommended regulations from the Alabama Safe Room Task Force were submitted to the Governor, as required by Governor Bentley’s <i>Executive Order 2015-50</i>. This was previously reported as Finding 2018-003.</p> <p><i>Executive Order 2015-50</i>, issued January 13, 2015, established the Alabama Safe Room Task Force (the “Task Force”). The Task Force was created to develop and coordinate the implementation of administrative regulations that govern the construction or installation of all storm shelters in the State of Alabama. The Executive Order also provided that the recommended regulations should address any and all federal and/or state requirements for the construction or installation of storm shelters in the State of Alabama. Additionally, the Executive Order designated that the Task Force be chaired by the Agency and required the Task Force to submit the recommended regulations to the Governor.</p> <p><u>Recommendation:</u> The Emergency Management Agency should ensure that they comply with Executive Orders issued by the Governor and that documentation of such compliance is maintained.</p>

Other Information

Officials
October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2024

Officials		Term Expires
Mr. Jeff Smitherman	Director 5895 County Road 41 P.O. Drawer 2160 Clanton, AL 35046-2160 Phone: (205) 280-2200 Website: www.ema.alabama.gov	Indefinite
Col. Brian Hastings	Director	2022