

Get notifications from The New York Post
Click 'Sign Up' then 'Allow'

Dismiss Sign Up



LOG IN

TRENDING NOW IN US NEWS



Knife-wielding madman reveals the chilling reason he targeted...



Dem strategist leaves CNN panel speechless with wild Trump...



Bloodthirsty Venezuelan gang has already set up shop i...



US NEWS **BREAKING**

FEMA worker accused of telling staff to skip hurricane-ravaged Trump homes claims it was common practice: 'This is not isolated'

By Jennie Taer, Josh Christenson, Emily Crane and Chris Nesi

Published Nov. 12, 2024, 12:07 p.m. ET

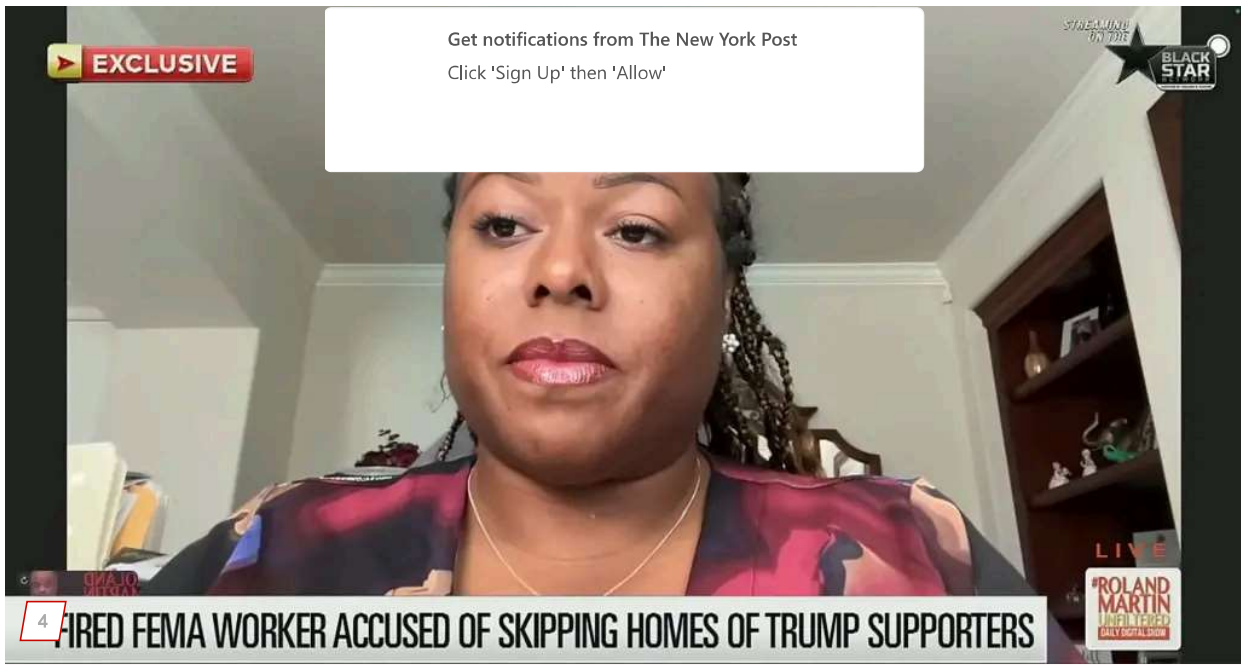
1.8K

More Videos Close

00:01 / 00:50

The Federal Emergency Management Agency supervisor accused of telling staff to skip hurricane-ravaged homes that had Trump campaign signs claims it wasn't an "isolated" incident — and that she's been hung out to dry.

Marn'i Washington, who was fired last week over the saga, **broke her silence** in an interview with YouTube podcaster Roland Martin Monday, arguing she had just been following a widespread FEMA policy of avoiding "politically hostile" homes.



Marn'i Washington, who was fired last week over the saga, broke her silence in an interview with YouTube podcaster Roland Martin on Monday, arguing she had just been following FEMA protocol.

Roland S. Martin/YouTube

“FEMA preaches avoidance first, and then de-escalation. This is not isolated. This is a colossal event of avoidance,” said Washington, 39.

“Not just in the state of Florida. You will find avoidance in the Carolinas.”

00:00

04:36

A FEMA official backed up Washington’s claims, telling The Post the agency’s practice of skipping Trump-supporting houses — or avoiding “white or conservative-dominated” disaster zones altogether — is an open secret at the agency that has been going on for

years.

Get notifications from The New York Post
Click 'Sign Up' then 'Allow'

EXPLORE MORE



How... be into 'systemic bias' against Trump supporters



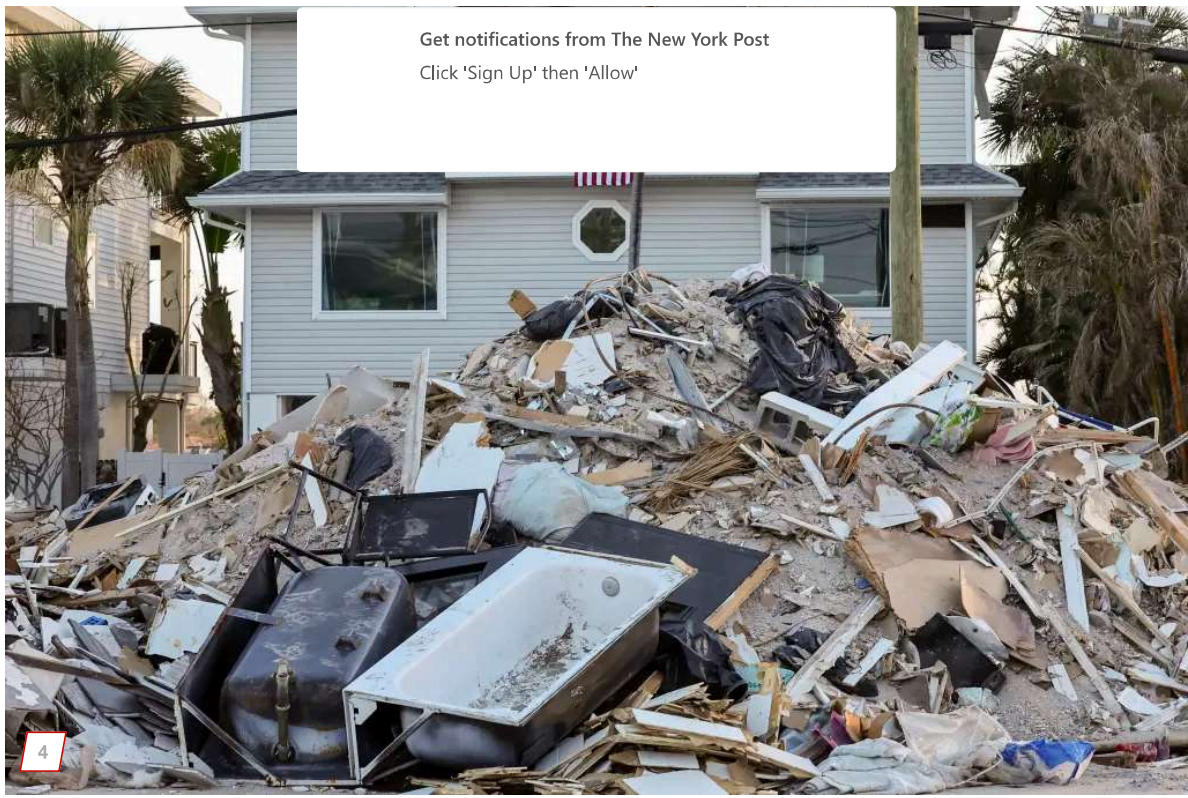
Florida fraudster, 44, uses 'botox' excuse to explain age after fraudulently applying for hurricane aid



Trump supporters denied FEMA aid: Letters to the Editor — Nov. 16, 2024

Congressional Republican lawmakers whose states were in the path of the back-to-back storms have vowed to take swift action to determine whether the agency abdicated its duties for political reasons, announcing plans to **launch multiple investigations**.

Washington accused FEMA of lying after the federal agency said she had no authority to give the directive to disaster relief workers who were canvassing homes in Lake Placid, Fla., in the wake of last month's Hurricane Milton.



"FEMA preaches avoidance first, and then de-escalation. This is not isolated. This is a colossal event of avoidance," said Washington.
AP

The FEMA official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said Washington likely received "very clear guidance" from her supervisors.

"I have heard from other entities who are serving in North Carolina that there was clear guidance saying to be 'mindful' of the types of people who are in Western North Carolina — they're largely Republican, very conservative — very derogatory sorts of references in their culture," the employee told The Post.

FEMA employees did receive threats in the wake of Hurricanes Helene and Milton as a result of misinformation, and a sheriff in Tennessee reported that an armed group threatened aid workers. However, FEMA employees are trained to deal with threats in disasters, the employee said, adding that the agency's real motive in avoiding certain areas in need is "equity." The source went so far as to say "it's not crazy" to say the agency has been instructing personnel to exclude white communities.

The employee said the state of affairs was especially dismaying considering the fact that rendering assistance in disaster areas is more of a calling than a mere job to any FEMA staffers.



Start and end your day informed with our newsletters

Morning Report and Evening Update: Your source for today's top stories

SIGN UP

By clicking above you agree to the [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#).

"I'm sad for the ... four years that we have gone through for the entire agency because emergency management is something that you don't just stumble into ... it's something that you have a passion for because you believe in the mission space across the board.

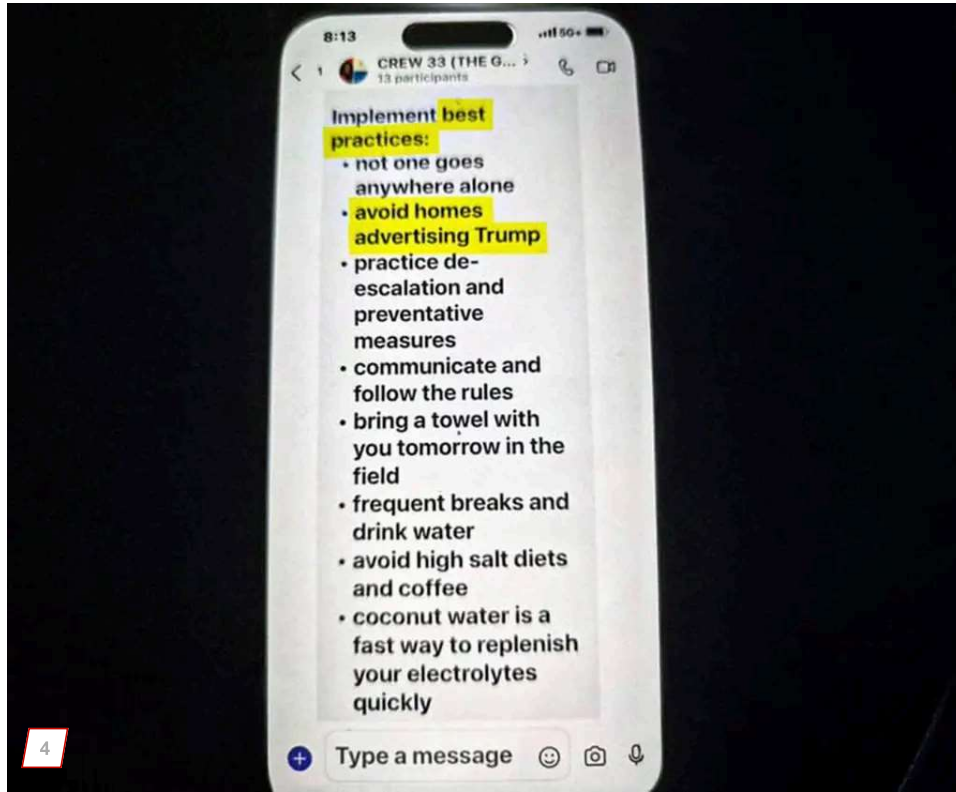
And we've set ourselves back," the

However, FEMA has denied Washi
about any official policy that discrimin

Get notifications from The New York Post
Click 'Sign Up' then 'Allow'

would not be forthcoming if asked

"Senior leadership will lie to you and tell you that they do not know, but if you ask the [Disaster Survivor Assistance] crew leads and specialists what they're experiencing in the field, they will tell you," she said.



"Avoid homes advertising Trump," she wrote in a "best practices" message to employees, the Daily Wire reported, citing copies of the memo.

via DailyWire

"Demand for FEMA to give you those incident reports, they will substantiate what is happening to us in the field."

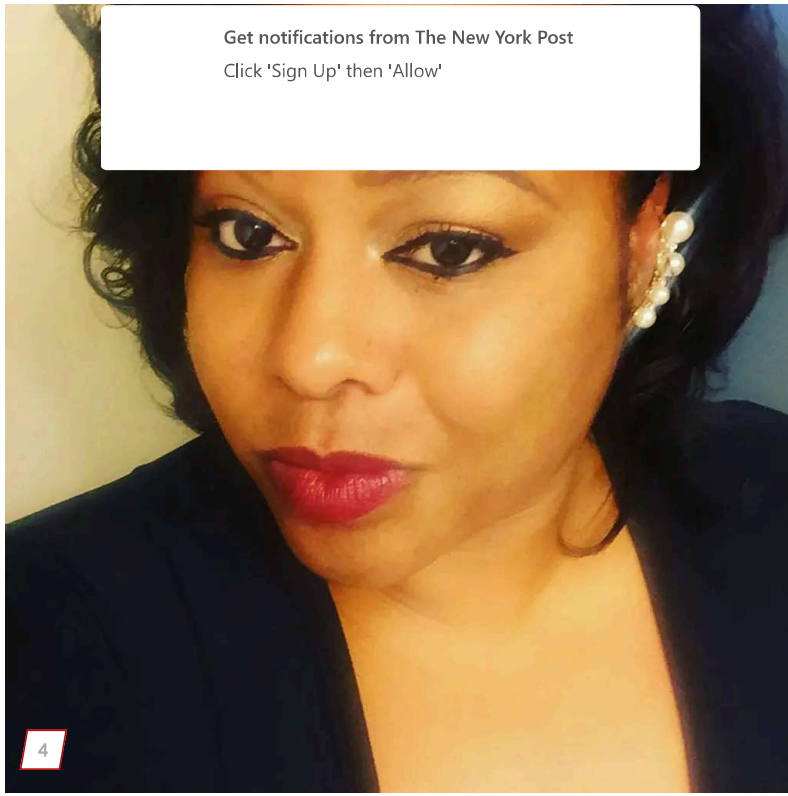
"FEMA's very well aware of the incidents that take place, not just with my crew, but with all the crews in the states," Washington added.

Washington said there have been instances in the past where houses had been marked "politically hostile" when no Trump signs were present.

"We omitted these homes for safety precautions, not because of political play," she said.

While the exact number of homes the agency skipped due to alleged hostility was not immediately known, Highlands County Emergency Management, which oversees Lake Placid, told The Post that approximately 50 homeowners had reached out after the agency **put out a call** for residents to report their house was passed over.

As a result, the agency said FEMA will be re-canvassing the entire Lake Placid area, as well as any other areas the prior Disaster Survivor Assistance (DSA) crews had covered — amounting to approximately 3,000 homes.



Marn'i Washington was fired from her position at FEMA.

Marnâi Washington/Facebook

Florida GOP Rep. Carlos Gimenez ripped the Biden admin's handling of the entire scandal as "reprehensible."

"The Biden administration weaponized FEMA to purposely deny Trump-supporting Americans critical aid & assistance during a natural disaster," Gimenez told The Post on Tuesday.

"As a member of the Homeland Security Committee, overseeing FEMA, we must hold those responsible accountable & ensure those impacted receive the assistance they are rightfully entitled to."

The FEMA source told The Post that current employees said disaster assistance teams skip openly Trump-supporting houses in the name of DEI.

The unofficial policy is to "prioritize the most under resourced, marginalized communities first," the source said.

Washington said those above her at FEMA were "aware" of the number of encounters going on in the field at the time.

"This was my second time, my second crew in Florida... experiencing unwelcome behavior from the residents," she said.

"Now, not all Floridians have been unpleasant but for the most part, the ones who are very passionate about their disdain for FEMA, have no problem expressing it."

Asked for examples on what "political hostility" entails, Washington said during the interview: "People will tell you 'I don't like FEMA, that's part of the Biden-Harris campaign, you're lying to people, you're not helping people.'"

1.8K **What do you think? [Post a comment.](#)**

She said once emergency workers “characteristic” such as Trump yard onto another street — we’re not ca

Get notifications from The New York Post
Click 'Sign Up' then 'Allow'

en linked to a common encounters and that we’re moving

Washington’s firing came after the verbally and in a Microsoft Teams chat — to avoid the homes.

orkers on the ground — both

The official was sacked after the federal agency started probing allegations that she had told FEMA workers on the ground — both verbally and in a Microsoft Teams chat — to avoid the Trump homes.

“Avoid homes advertising Trump,” she wrote in a “best practices” message to employees, the Daily Wire reported, citing copies of the memo.

The order was the second bullet point in a list instructing workers to not go “anywhere alone,” practice “de-escalation,” stay hydrated and to “follow the rules.”

As a result of the edict, workers told the outlet that they ultimately skipped roughly 20 homes displaying Trump signs or flags between late October and early November.

By ignoring the homes, those residents were denied the opportunity to sign up for federal disaster relief assistance **in the wake of the Category 3 hurricane’s landfall.**

In announcing Washington’s termination, FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell said the directive was a violation of the agency’s “core values and principles to help people regardless of their political affiliation.”

“I will continue to do everything I can to make sure this never happens again,” Criswell said.

Meanwhile, Washington — who had worked with FEMA since 2019 — said she was also terminated from another job she held with a private real estate firm in the wake of the controversy.

She added that she has had to relocate from her home due to threats.

The Post reached out to FEMA over Washington’s claims but didn’t hear back immediately.

FILED UNDER [2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION](#), [DONALD TRUMP](#), [FEMA](#), [HURRICANE MILTON](#), [11/12/24](#)

READ NEXT [Rubio tapped for secretary of state position by Trump — ...](#)

SPONSORED STORIES



The IRS Is Forgiving Millions in Tax Debt Before Nov. 30 Deadline [Qualify...



Here Are The 25+ Cool Gifts For This Year

[topchicdeals.com](#)

Neurologists Surprised: This Shoe Helps with Pain Like No Other