



Reflections on Katrina

Tough Lessons, Emerging Insights
for a Catastrophic Disaster

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Outline

- Facts about Hurricane Katrina
- What were some of the tough lessons?
- What are some emerging insights?
- Concluding thoughts



Katrina Facts

- The most destructive natural disaster in U.S. history.
- More than 1.5 million people were directly affected.
- 1,836 deaths
- The largest displacement of U.S. citizens in history... more than 270,000 were in shelters after landfall.



More facts...

- Nearly 6,300 medical personnel were deployed.
- 112,000 travel trailers and mobile homes are serving as temporary homes for Katrina victims.
- More than 99 million cubic yards of debris were removed.



More facts...

- Volunteer organizations raised more than \$4.25 billion for disaster victims... with ARC receiving half of the donations.
- A total of 244,000 Red Cross workers (95% volunteers) assisted with the Katrina relief effort.



Expenditures

- FEMA spent more than \$3.7 billion to date for debris removal.
- FEMA paid \$650 million for hotel and motel rooms for Katrina victims following the storm
- FEMA provided more than \$6.0 billion to Katrina victims for housing and other needs.



More expenditures...

- The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) approved more than \$10.4 billion in disaster loans to homeowners, renters and businesses.
- The Department of Housing and Urban Development has been allocated \$16.7 billion to rebuild damaged housing and other infrastructure.
- The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) paid more than \$15.3 billion in claims.



Final Tally

- A combined total of \$110.6 billion in Federal aid for relief, recovery and rebuilding.



Tough Lessons

- Response shortfalls and problems
- Coordination issues
- Vulnerable populations
- “Mistakes repeated”



Emerging Insights

- Catastrophic disaster planning needs to be qualitatively different from routine disaster planning
- Federalism challenges
- New distinctions about “acceptable risk”
- “We get what we pay for.”



Concluding Thoughts

- Creating a culture of preparedness
- Integrating theory and practice