

Ad Hoc: Hurricane Katrina, 2005

ALMUN X

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Letter from Crisis Directors

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to ALMUN, in what will almost certainly be a thrilling weekend filled with high stakes, quick decisions, and a hurricane of vast proportions. This year, ALMUN is proud to reveal that its Ad Hoc centers around Hurricane Katrina. This committee is the product of a year of dedicated work created by a knowledgeable staff of skilled individuals. Christian Bender is humbled to serve as your Crisis Director, and Caitlyn Johnson is thrilled to be serving as your Assistant Crisis Director.

Hurricane Katrina decimated lives, homes, cities, and, to a certain extent, America as a whole. As such, the hurricane forced local and federal governmental forces, as well as local citizens, reporters, doctors, and religious clergy, to solve the enormous problem that was Hurricane Katrina. Specifically, this committee will focus their attention onto New Orleans, Louisiana, and the surrounding area. Before the storm, thirty percent of New Orleans' residents were impoverished. Thus, many had no effective method of escaping the city before the storm hit. This committee's job is to protect and save those victims stranded in a drowning city. Its other job is to rebuild New Orleans.

The images taken of New Orleans after being struck by Hurricane Katrina are stark. The storm incontrovertibly damaged New Orleans. Buildings were flooded, disease was rampant, and local schools and hospitals were destroyed. Ad Hoc is called to provide a home—namely, an entire city—to a people whose city had been stolen from them.

Cedric Richmond, the U.S. Representative for Louisiana's 2nd congressional district, described Hurricane Katrina as a “mix of a natural and a man-made catastrophe.” By “man-made catastrophe”, he is referring to the forces pooled together to save New Orleans. Sadly, they ultimately failed to do just that. Some blame the authority figures' incompetence, others blame hidden personal agendas. Whatever the case of their failure, this committee is expected to put aside its differences in order successfully save an entire city.

This committee will pull on all the skills which you have acquired throughout your Model United Nations career. Now more than ever, you must rely on your diplomacy in an environment sorely lacking it. Indeed, we aim for this committee to sharpen the diplomatic skills required of every leader. Only then can New Orleans be saved from Hurricane Katrina. Lastly, please remember to have fun. Above all, we, as your Crisis Directors, wish to see **comradery and diplomacy** rather than competition and, yes, backstabbing among you. Here's to a weekend of healthy problem-solving!

Letter from Crisis Co-Chairs

Hello all my lovely delegates!

I am Sarah Elizabeth Atkins, your chair of Ad Hoc for ALMUN X! I am in my freshman year here at the University. I am from Pike Road, Alabama, and I attended LAMP High School in Montgomery, Alabama. While at LAMP, I participated in the Model UN club and even got to chair my very own committee at my school's conference my senior year! Living in the Montgomery area, a mere two hours away, I grew up coming to all kinds of things here at the University. Gymnastics, football, basketball, baseball--you name it, I was probably here. Being a perennial Alabama-everything fan, and having my brother as a senior here, made it an easy choice for me to attend the University. I chose to major in Computer Science, something I had never even tried before, and I have ended up loving it so far. I have always loved solving puzzles and problems, so computer science seemed like a good fit for me. If you ever want to talk about Alabama football, Harry Potter, math (I adore math with all my heart), books, anything nerdy in general, or have any questions about Ad Hoc, please email me. I am so very excited for our ALMUN experience and cannot wait to hear all your brilliant ideas and arguments.

Welcome delegates!

Keep your wits and notes about you as we head into this year's Ad Hoc committee, but, should they desert you, do not be afraid to ask for assistance from either Sarah or myself. My name is Erin McFadden, and I am also a freshman, though I am not an Alabama native. I'm from Newnan, Georgia, just south of Atlanta and new to the Model UN scene. Don't let this be off-putting, however, as I have dedicated myself to learning the ropes in the interest of being the best co-chair possible! I am a dual-major and dual-minor, with majors in International Studies (specifically International Relations) and Anthropology, and minors in Italian and History, respectively. I am a heavy planner, and have not one, but three separate spreadsheets for class planning to make all of that happen. Yes, they are color coded, and yes, I'm willing to share. I'm a member of the Alabama International Relations Club, but in what free time I have I am also a huge nerd. My background for nerd-dom in general is actually Dungeons and Dragons, though I'm also a fan of Star Wars and The Stormlight Archive, and have recently begun venturing into Star Trek. If you have any questions for me, hypothetical DnD encounters, or just want to explain which Star Trek captain is the absolute best, you can email me anytime. I'm looking forward to working with you all, and hope to make this an ALMUN to remember!

Now, onto the logistics. With its small amount of preparation time, Ad Hoc is a notoriously advanced committee. Delegates are typically expected to know the ins-and-

outs of parliamentary procedure and be able to argue a topic with skill and only a few hours of research. We do not expect you to know everything there is to know about parliamentary procedure, but please have a basic understanding of it. This is Model UN and the goal is to adhere to parliamentary procedure as much as possible. With this being said, if you mess up a little or if we need to explain something about how ALMUN's parli-pro works, please just ask. We understand that you will have had little time to prepare and while we will prepare for this, we are more than happy to adapt to the skill level present in the committee. As long as you have read the background guide, know your character and their goals, and pay attention in committee, you are all set! We hope you are just as excited as the whole Ad Hoc staff is for this year's conference!

Best Regards,
Ad Hoc Crisis Board

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Crisis Letter



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

National Weather Service at New Orleans, August 28th, 2005

Devastating damage expected... Hurricane Katrina... a most powerful hurricane of unprecedented strength rivals the intensity of Hurricane Camille in 1969. Most of the affected areas will be uninhabitable for weeks, perhaps longer. At least one half of well-constructed homes will have roof and wall failure, leaving those homes severely damaged or destroyed.

The majority of industrial buildings will become non-functional. Partial to complete wall and roof failure is expected. All wood framed low rising apartment buildings will be destroyed. Concrete block low rise apartments will sustain major damage, including some wall and roof failure.

High rise office and apartment buildings will sway dangerously-- a few to the point of total collapse. All windows will blow out.

Airborne debris will be widespread and may include heavy items such as household appliances and even light vehicles. Sport utility vehicles and light trucks will be moved. The blown debris will create additional destruction. Persons, pets, and livestock exposed to the winds will face certain death if struck.

Power outages will last for weeks as most power poles will be down and transformers destroyed. Water shortages will make human suffering. Incredible by modern standards.

The vast majority of native trees will be snapped or uprooted. Only the heartiest will remain standing, but be totally defoliated. Few crops will remain. Livestock left exposed to the winds will be killed.

An inland hurricane wind warning is issued when sustained winds near hurricane force, or frequent gusts at or above hurricane force are certain within the next 12 to 24 hours.

Overview of Crisis at Hand

Dawn begins to rise over New Orleans, Louisiana. Unfortunately, so does Hurricane Katrina. As the people of the peaceful town (nicknamed “The Big Easy”) prepare to wake, their world, and indeed the world of all Americans, is about to be both literally and metaphorically rocked.

First comes the water. The sky opens and pours billions of gallons of water onto their homes. New Orleans residents are shaking due to the dramatic drop in temperature. Then the wind blows in. House infrastructures sway—first from side to side, then up and down. After an hour, the houses capsize. Some of them even explode. Finally, after hours of torrential downpours and withering winds, dawn finally emerges. Survivors from the hurricane, and indeed others throughout Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida, and Alabama, begin to explore the wreckage that Hurricane Katrina wrought.

Reporter Alice Jackson, whose home had fallen prey to the storm, surveyed her destroyed neighborhood. Besides the destroyed homes, she had also seen the bodies of her neighbors strewn about. “Why hadn’t they evacuated?” she asked, “Did they not have enough money for gas? Even if they hadn’t, they could have gone to a shelter!”

She was infuriated not over the destruction of her home (the American Red Cross estimates that more than 354,000 homes along the Gulf Coast were destroyed or damaged beyond repair by Katrina), but over how many victims were trapped and unable to flee their homes before the storm. Across the Gulf Coast, 1.5 million people safely evacuated the danger zones of the hurricane. Even so, more than 100,000 victims were forced to stay behind in New Orleans.

This Ad Hoc committee will focus primarily on helping those victims left behind. Each delegate must fight to limit further civilian casualties and dilapidation in New Orleans. As one reporter who immediately returned to New Orleans put it:

“Thousands waded through chest-deep floodwaters to reach shelters or higher ground. Thousands more remained trapped in homes, hospitals, and nursing homes. Conditions in shelters rapidly became unsanitary. Many people were exposed to the elements for five days or more, living with little or no food, drinking water, or medicine.”

As conditions deteriorate in New Orleans, all citizens, local government officials, police officers, and federal government officials must unite to save what is left of their city- the city that all Americans are currently watching. Specifically, this committee will focus on the hospitals and homes affected by the storm, shelters housing thousands of survivors, the elements (such as disease, wild animals, food, and water), military and police control, and national press coverage.

Will one of America's oldest cities rebuild itself, or will it drown in Hurricane Katrina's waters? These questions and more will be answered in this Ad Hoc committee. Nuanced and thorough answers will be required of each delegate in this committee. No answer will be easy, but each answer ought to bring New Orleans one step further away from total physical and political annihilation.

Early Weather Reports

According to the US Department of Commerce and NOAA, Hurricane Katrina first developed on August 19th, 2005. It did not, however, become classified as a tropical depression until August 23rd. It received this rating while passing over the South East Bahama region. On the morning of August 24th, tropical depression Katrina had strengthened into tropical storm Katrina over the Bahamas. The storm continued to move West, forecasted to hit Florida. Overnight from August 24th-25th, it strengthened into a Category 1 storm, officially becoming Hurricane Katrina just two hours before it hit Florida.

City Infrastructure

Only after Hurricane Katrina did Louisiana institute statewide building codes. Before this, though there were codes in cities like New Orleans, they were not enforced until the 1980's. Thus, any homes or buildings built before then were likely to not be up to code. The buildings that were up to code were built to code on flooding approximations not based on levee failure.

Levee History

Commonly, levees around New Orleans had concrete walls constructed on steel sheet piles driven into the crest of the drainage canal embankments in New Orleans in the 1990s to provide additional flood freeboard from hurricane induced storm surges. These walls typically accounted for Category 3 hurricane storm surges--and not Category 5 ones such as Katrina.

Population Size

Per the official 2000 census there were 484,674 people in New Orleans. The racial makeup of the city was 67.25% African American, 28.05% White, 0.20% Native American, 2.26% Asian, 0.02% Pacific Islander, 0.93% from other races, and 1.28% from two or more races. 3.06% of the population were Hispanic or Latino of any race. The last population estimate before Hurricane Katrina was 454,865 as of July 1, 2005 ("Demographics").

Previous Hurricanes

Hurricane Betsy (August-September 1965) made landfall in Louisiana as a Category 4 hurricane. It overpowered the levees in Louisiana and led to extreme power outages all over the state. Hurricane Betsy (as of July 2005) is the most intense hurricane to make landfall in Louisiana (tied for second most intense in the history of the United States). Costing U.S.\$1.42 billion, it is one of the costliest hurricanes on record.

Hurricane Camille (August 1969) made landfall just east of New Orleans, thus avoiding a direct impact. The only major significance regarding New Orleans was major flooding in low-lying areas along with a few overpowered levees. However, east of New Orleans there was near-total destruction in some low lying areas.

When Hurricane Ivan (September 2004) began to form, mandatory evacuations took place in 7 Louisiana parishes, and voluntary evacuations took place in 6. More than one-third of the population of the New Orleans area evacuated, including more than half of the residents of New Orleans itself. About a thousand special-needs patients were housed at the Louisiana Superdome during the storm. At one point, the media sparked fears of an "Atlantean" catastrophe if the hurricane were to make a direct strike on the city. These fears were not realized, as the storm's path turned further east. Mayor Ray Nagin issued a call for a voluntary evacuation of the city at 6 pm on September 13. An estimated 600,000 or more evacuated from the Greater New Orleans area. The contraflow plan was put into full effect for the first time, but rather late in the evacuation due to various confusions. This cost the U.S. \$18.8 billion.

Tropical Storm Matthew (October 2004) made landfall in Cocodrie, Louisiana (85 miles southwest of New Orleans) on October 10, 2004. The estimated cost of damage was \$255,000.

Hurricane Cindy (July 2005) made landfall in Grand Isle, Louisiana as a Category 1 hurricane on July 5. By time the storm reached New Orleans, it had weakened to a tropical storm with winds of 70MPH. This storm created the worst blackout in New Orleans since Hurricane Betsy in 1965. Evacuations were not mandatory, although lots of tourists, residents, and oil rig workers left the city. The final estimated damage of Hurricane Cindy was U.S.\$320 million.

General Hurricane Information

In 2004, the Army Corps of Engineers conducted a study on the cost and feasibility of protecting Southeast Louisiana from a Category 5 hurricane, which suggested that the likelihood of such a storm directly striking New Orleans was a one-in-500-year event. “Hurricane Pam” was the term created by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. It was not a real hurricane, but merely a scenario. This drill took place in July 2004. The purpose of Hurricane Pam was to test the Louisiana area in case of an actual major hurricane. The mock hurricane scenario and its projected consequences were the focal point of an eight-day exercise. In this scenario, Hurricane Pam was a slow-moving Category 3 storm with sustained winds of 120 mph. It brought with it up to 20 inches of rain to some parts of southeastern Louisiana and caused levee-topping storm surges.

The consequence assessment for Hurricane Pam indicated that more than one million people would be displaced and that 600,000 buildings would be damaged (with some completely destroyed). It was concluded that 60,000 people would be killed if such hurricane were to ever happen, and it was warned that transportation would be a major problem if this were to have been a real storm.

Another problem discovered was that the debris team estimated that a storm like Hurricane Pam would result in 30 million cubic yards of debris and 237,000 cubic yards of household hazardous waste. To solve this, the team identified existing landfills that had available storage space and locations of hazardous waste disposal sites. The debris plan also outlines priorities for debris removal. Follow-up Hurricane Pam workshops were conducted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in November and December 2004, July 2005, and August 2005. Through the Hurricane Pam scenario, the “Contraflow Plan” was developed.

The “Contraflow Plan” allows for road and highway traffic to flow in the opposite direction of the surrounding lanes. This is used to support evacuation efforts to get more people out of a city. When used for evacuation, many police officers are needed to manually direct traffic. State highway departments have coordinated plans for traffic direction with state highway patrol agencies, but, overall, the decision on whether or not to implement the contraflow plan is left up to the Governor of Louisiana.

Sheltering

The Interagency Shelter Group declared that at least 1,000 shelters would be required as a response for a catastrophic disaster. The shelter team identified 784 shelters and has developed plans for locating the remaining shelters. In a storm like Hurricane Pam, shelters will likely remain open for 100 days. The group identified the resources necessary to support 1000 shelters for 100 days. They planned for staff augmentation and how to include residents in shelter management. State resources are adequate to operate shelters for the first 3-5 days. The group planned how federal and other resources will replenish supplies at shelters.

Search and Rescue

The Search and Rescue Group developed a transportation plan for getting stranded residents out of harm's way. Planners identified agencies for such search and rescue ventures and established a command structure, which includes four areas with up to 800 searchers.

Medical

The Medical Care Group reviewed and enhanced existing plans. The group determined how to implement existing immunization plans rapidly for tetanus, influenza, and other diseases likely to be present after a major hurricane. The group determined how to re-supply hospitals around the state that would face heavy patient loads. The medical action plan includes patient movement details and identifies probable locations, such as state university campuses, where individuals would receive care and then be transported to hospitals, special needs shelters, or regular shelters as necessary.

FEMA

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was created under Presidential Reorganization Plan no. 3 of 1978 and implemented the following year. Its intended purpose is to coordinate responses to major disasters that are beyond the scope of resources available to local and state bodies. In order to receive aid from FEMA, the governor of the affected state must declare a state of emergency and formally request the president provide assistance from FEMA and the federal government. Before the creation of FEMA, disaster efforts were left entirely to the legislative branch of the federal government.

The Present (August 2005)

Presently, New Orleans is severely unprepared for a hurricane of Katrina's size. As noted, thirty percent of its population is impoverished and unable to access transportation out of the city. Thus, 100,000 New Orleans residents are trapped inside the city. Its levees cannot withstand a Category 5 Hurricane. The Superdome is not up to standard emergency relief. Even worse, the Superdome was never officially tested to see if it was a reliable shelter. As the Director of Emergency Preparedness for St. Tammany Parish stated, "it's not a hotel." She was implying that it would be safer to leave the city altogether. Lastly, the superdome is prone to flooding up to its second level. The New Orleans Police Department lacks the manpower to effectively protect the city already. On August 27th, Governor Blanco declared a state-of-emergency over the entire state under the Stafford Act. Today, on August 28th, she formally asked President George Bush for U.S. \$130 million in federal aid to the city of New Orleans in response to the incumbent damages which Hurricane Katrina would cost New Orleans.

Character List

Ray Nagin is New Orleans' current mayor, in his first term, and reliant upon a good recovery to retain his power as mayor. He needs as much aid as possible to flow into New Orleans to aid in the rebuilding process. He is looking to avoid the embarrassment of failing to secure funds and is trying to retain the diversity of the city and protect the lower income African American majority areas of the city. He works with his wife to help coordinate the police department and reach out to the Houston Mayor (whose wife his wife is friends with).

Dr. Seletha Smith is the accomplished and highly intelligent wife of New Orleans Mayor, Ray Nagin. They are happily married, but in the wake of Hurricane Katrina she begins to realize she doesn't agree with how he is handling the crisis. She is smart, powerful, and cunning, and she will do anything to stay in office with her husband. Her main goal, other than staying in office, is to utilize local and governmental forces alike. Particularly, she wants to create a united front with the New Orleans police department in dealing with the fallout of the Hurricane. She frequently calls on her good friend, Andrea Ferguson, the wife of Houston Mayor Bill White, for advice. Seletha and Andrea have met on numerous occasions at various political events and gatherings for their husbands. They have bonded over the lifestyle that they share and the strain it has put on each of their marriages.

Kathleen Blanco is Louisiana's current governor, a democrat, and fiercely opposed to accepting a federal assistance from a largely republican White House. She refuses to be controlled by the federal government. She wants to work with the federal government, as opposed to working for it. She believes that her administration is best equipped to restore New Orleans. Her main goal is to restore the Superdome for evacuees, against potent opposition from the federal government. Kathleen commonly calls on Howard Dean, the Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, for help. Howard and Kathleen have a long history through their work in the Democratic Party. Their relationship has always been strictly professional, but they have been allies for a great deal of time and if she ever asked him for a favor or vice versa, he would use whatever connections he had to make it happen.

Chris Rose is a reporter for *The Times-Picayune*. Originally a crime reporter, Rose has covered a variety of beats ranging from politics and economics to nightlife and lifestyle. In the wake of Katrina, Rose is intent on reporting the emotionally devastating aftermath for the New Orleans families. In his view, the federal government has let down the people of New Orleans in its response to the disaster. Rose feels that the failures of the government to save and protect victims of the storm are being deliberately covered up. He sees it as his journalistic responsibility to expose these shortcomings. His chief goal throughout Katrina is to publish the accounts of the citizens affected and shine a light on any perceived injustices. As a major reporter, Rose is not afraid to approach anyone for a story, and he will ask any questions necessary to uncover the truth. One of his chief contacts at *The Times-Picayune* is Jim Amoss, the editor-in-chief. All of Rose's stories are subject to editorial approval. As such, the two men have a somewhat adversarial friendship.

Dick Cheney is the Vice President of the United States of America. He is reluctant to spearhead the federal relief efforts. He is recorded as saying to President George W. Bush, when asked if he would conduct a fact-finding mission over the areas affected by Katrina, that “That’ll probably be the extent of it, Mr. President, unless you order otherwise.” This might be because he does not want to take the fall for a possibly badly run relief effort. Before Cheney became involved in politics, he was the CEO of Halliburton and because of this, he has a great deal of business experience and personal connections in the private sector. His goal is to stay out of anything that could be potentially politically messy while still fulfilling his job as Vice President. He needs to make sure that, at the end of the crisis, he still has his party on his side.

Michael D. Brown is a very important figure during Hurricane Katrina. Originally brought into FEMA as General Counsel shortly after Bush’s inauguration in January 2001, Brown was appointed deputy director in September of that year. Brown was deemed the Principal Federal Official who would launch the federal response to Hurricane Katrina after the storm was named an “Incident of National Significance” on August 31st, 2005. This is a crucial moment in Brown’s career, since it is the first time he has been placed in charge of such a major effort. His chief priority is to help New Orleans by transitioning the recovery efforts from local authorities to the control of the Federal Government; however, he must do this while attempting to please not only the White House, but Governor Blanco and Mayor Nagin as well. With most of FEMA’s resources and the help of his deputy, Coast Guard Chief of Staff Vice Admiral Thad Allen, Brown has one chance to help the citizens of New Orleans. His job, as well as the lives of those trapped by the storm, is on the line.

Bonnie McElveen-Hunter, Chairperson of the Red Cross, is a capable business woman set on providing as much aid as possible to Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. She must deal with hesitation from federal authorities in allowing the Red Cross to help aid Katrina victims while also ensuring that the most imminent of threats to the people affected by Hurricane Katrina are dealt with accordingly.

Erik Prince, a former Navy SEAL, founded the private security firm Blackwater Worldwide in 1997 after noticing the ineffectiveness of public institutions responding to the 1994 Rwandan genocide. A self-described Libertarian, Prince feels that the most effective solution to a problem will nearly always come from a private organization or charity. His company fulfills this belief by deploying special forces to prevent disasters and protecting those afflicted by them. With Blackwater being one of the federal government’s largest contractors (they receive 90% of their revenue from these contracts), Prince is more than willing to provide services in the wake of Katrina. He even goes so far as to claim that Blackwater can “beat the Louisiana National Guard to the scene” if needed. Due to his experiences in the Navy, Prince has several DOD connections. He was an intern in the first Bush White House as well as a repeated donor to several conservative organizations and political campaigns. He hopes to use these connections and whatever resources available to him, including his family’s large fortune, to provide an effective response to Katrina while furthering the mission of Blackwater Worldwide.

Archbishop Hughes is the Archbishop of New Orleans. He wants to keep the diocese of New Orleans intact. He has to oversee the rebuilding and consolidation of 142 parishes to 108 parishes. Additionally, he must respond to the nearly U.S. \$300 million worth of damages and to the deaths of a quarter of his parishioners. Lastly, he has to oversee the reconstruction of half of the schools in New Orleans... while handling the Sexual Assault cases currently being lobbed against the Catholic Church in his diocese.

Eddie Compass is the New Orleans Police Superintendent and a 26-year veteran of the force. He continues to break down in public and report unsubstantiated accounts of violence, robberies, and sexual assault brought on after the storm. Additionally, police officers continue to resign. His main concern is that the people of New Orleans do not have any faith in their police force. This is not good for optics, and if things don't change soon, he could very easily lose his job. More importantly, in reference to Katrina, he hopes to utilize his police force in local rescue efforts to save lives and make the people's opinion of the police more positive. However, federal intervention is barring this goal.

Thad Allen is the Vice Admiral and the U.S. Coast Guard's Chief of Staff. He came to New Orleans to aid Michael Brown in his efforts. He possesses a cool, collected demeanor, which is something extremely helpful in times of natural disasters and directly contrasts with the way Brown is handling the Katrina crisis. Talks of him replacing Brown altogether are in ensuing. His main goal is to utilize the Coast Guard (who are federally funded) in rescuing storm victims.

Russel Honore is the the commander of 22,000 military personnel deployed to aid in recovery and works very closely with Thad Allen. Like Allen, he is receiving praise for his calm and steely demeanor in handling his post. His primary goal, similar to Thad Allen, is to utilize the 22,000 military personnel under his command in rescuing storm victims.

Michael Chertoff is the head of Homeland Security, the head of FEMA, and Michael Brown's boss. He is receiving pressure from both the White House and from the public to dismiss Brown from his post. Chertoff, too, is receiving heated criticism for being slow to help restore Katrina. His sole goal is to paint the White House and the federal government in a positive light while restoring New Orleans. People all over the country are placing blame on him for the areas in New Orleans not having access to food, water, and medical care. However, he continually blames this on the post-hurricane flood. He hopes for a near-total federal government takeover in the Katrina relief efforts, which is not looked upon favorably by some local New Orleans officials.

Appendix



This famous photograph, taken of President George Bush in September 2005, depicted many American citizens' disdain for how “removed” he appeared to be from the protection and rebuilding of New Orleans.

	48 hours before landfall		24 hours before landfall		Landfall		24 hours after landfall	
	Katrina	Rita	Katrina	Rita	Katrina	Rita	Katrina	Rita
Wind speed	115 mph	170 mph	160 mph	140 mph	140 mph	120 mph	50 mph	40 mph
Storm size (width across)	300 miles	370 miles	370 miles	410 miles	460 miles	410 miles	210 miles	120 miles
Radius of hurricane force winds	85 miles	70 miles	40 miles	85 miles	125 miles	85 miles	*	*
Radius of tropical storm force winds	150 miles	185 miles	185 miles	205 miles	230 miles	205 miles	105 miles	60 miles
Movement	W at 7 mph	WNW at 9 mph	WNW at 12 mph	NW at 10 mph	N at 15 mph	NW at 12 mph	NNE at 18 mph	N at 11 mph
Coastal storm surge	*	*	*	*	18-22 feet	15-20 feet	*	*

* Information is not available or applicable

Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale

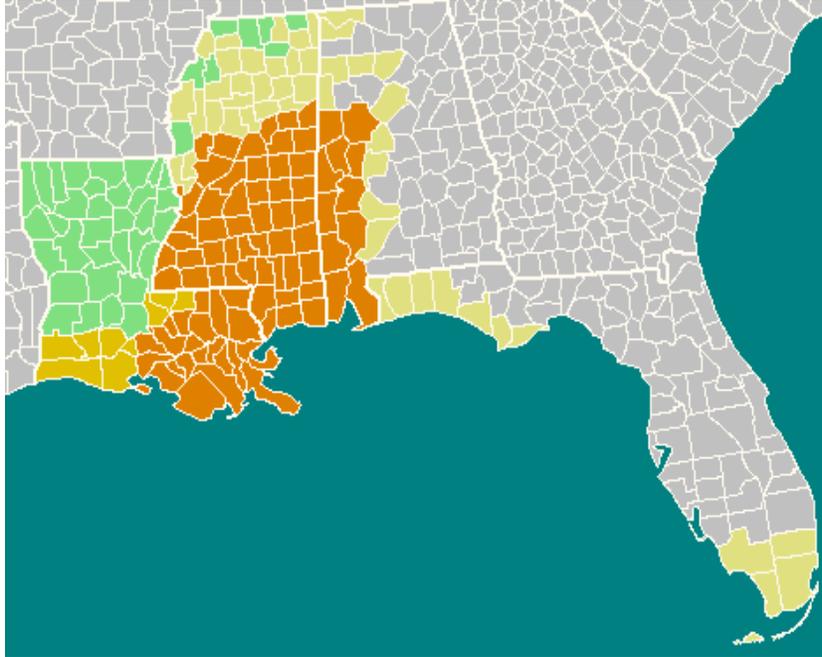
Scale Number (Category)	Sustained Winds (MPH)	Types of Damage	Hurricanes
1	74-95	Minimal: Damage primarily to shrubbery, trees, foliage and unanchored mobile homes. No real damage to other structures.	<i>Irene, 1999</i>
2	96-110	Moderate: Some trees blown down. Major damage to exposed mobile homes. Some damage to roofing materials, windows and doors.	<i>Georges, 1998 Floyd, 1999</i>
3	111-130	Extensive: Large trees blown down. Mobile homes destroyed. Some structural damage to roofing materials of buildings. Some structural damage to small buildings.	<i>Betsy, 1965 Alicia, 1983</i>
4	131-155	Extreme: Trees blown down. Complete destruction of mobile homes. Extensive damage to roofing materials, windows and doors. Complete failure of roofs on many small residences.	<i>Andrew, 1992</i>
5	>155	Catastrophic: Complete failure of roofs on many residences and industrial buildings. Extensive damage to windows and doors. Some complete building failure.	<i>Camille, 1969</i>

NOTE: Damage can vary greatly and may not apply to all areas, such as Hawaii.

These photos denote how powerful a storm Hurricane Katrina was. It registered as 5 on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale, and was more powerful than Hurricane Rita upon landfall.



Despite this photo, taken of a New Orleans' levee at 5:15am on August 29th 2005, government officials still argued whether the levee had broken.



- Dark shade of Orange = Counties eligible for full Individual and Public assistance.
- Intermediate shade of Orange=counties eligible for Individual and Public Assistance (Categories A and B only).
- Light Yellow = Eligible for full Public assistance.
- Green = Eligible for Public assistance (Category B only).



This is a projection map of the storm's path from 11 am Aug 26, 2005.



This is a photograph taken by local New Orleans photographer Chris Jordan. It depicts the general damage inflicted upon thousands of New Orleans' homes.



This is a general map of New Orleans circa 2004.

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