



Hurricane Katrina: The Failed Response

The New York Times

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Hurricane Katrina, which hit the U.S. Gulf Coast with 145-mile-an-hour winds on Aug. 29, 2005, was the worst natural disaster in modern American history. The storm caused more than 1,700 deaths, widespread destruction — including the flooding of New Orleans — and billions of dollars' worth of damage. Compounding the tragedy was what Paul Krugman described as the "stunning lack of both preparation and urgency in the federal government's response." Some residents who were unable to evacuate were left clinging to rooftops. Those who sought shelter in New Orleans' Superdome were subjected to horrific conditions. This e-single includes articles and commentary pieces chronicling some of the errors and events in the storm's aftermath that increased the suffering and the death toll — and allowed anarchy to take hold. "Government at all levels failed the city of New Orleans and other parts of the Gulf Coast," Bob Herbert wrote, "and many died as a result."



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