

The Disaster Lifecycle

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Natural Disaster: Hurricane Katrina

- Mitigation: President George W. Bush called a state of emergency for the states of Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi. Unfortunately, the state of emergency did not include the coast of New Orleans, which was the area that was hit the hardest from the hurricane. This led to many issues within the city and the areas surrounding it. -

Natural Disaster: Hurricane Katrina

- Preparedness: The coast guard began prepositioning resources around the expected impact zone and activated 400 reservists. There were levees already surrounding the city of New Orleans, but the Hurricane caused a barge to go through those levees, causing a flood. The city was prepared for storms, but not one of this magnitude. The government was criticized for overlooking the danger of this storm and not preparing well enough. This includes not sending enough supplies such as food and water to the stranded citizens of New Orleans. The evacuation plan was poor in regards to how serious the storm was.

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- Disaster Response: The government responded to the disaster relatively well in that as soon as the levee broke and flooded the city, the coast guard was sent out to rescue those who were stranded. Many individuals were sent to the superdome for a place to stay during the storm. FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) supplied some housing to individuals, but unfortunately there was still a shortage of housing. The American Red Cross opened shelters to those that needed a place to stay.

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- Disaster Recovery: Many donations were made to popular charities to help the city of New Orleans recover from the damage. The levees had to be rebuilt and redesigned as they have failed. Engineers have replaced the I-Design with a T-Design which have a horizontal concrete base that protects against soil erosion. This was due to the experience that was Hurricane Katrina; it led to better designed levees. Over time houses were rebuilt in order to try to get the city of New Orleans to return to normality.

Human Disaster: BP Oil Spill

- Mitigation: Because of the oil spill on the coast, the United States prevents drilling of oil in that area in order to prevent more damage being done to the coast. The oil spill also led to boycotts on BP, leading to a 10-40% decrease of sales at certain BP gas stations. A BP engineer knew the flow rate was three times higher than the initial claims which possibly led to the explosion of the rig.

Human Disaster: BP Oil Spill

- Disaster Preparedness: There were containment booms stretched out over the gulf in order to prevent the oil from spreading further than it already has. The community surrounding the oil spill, especially the fishing community, had to find other ways of earning a profit due to the environmental damage the oil spill caused. The Coast Guard also prevented access to the Gulf in order to prevent further damage from being done.

Human Disaster: BP oil Spill

- Disaster Response: The use of Corexit oil dispersant were used to try to disperse the oil, but it was later investigating to contain carcinogens which affected the marine life. The process for removal of the oil was combustion, offshore filtration, and collection. Skimmers were used to collect oil from the water. On the beaches, removing oil involved sifting the sand and pumping it.

Human Disaster: BP Oil Spill

- Disaster Recovery: The oil spill is still affecting the coast to this day, but the cleanup has definitely helped the situation. The water is cleaner which allowed the local fishing economy to try to stabilize. Unfortunately, since the oil spill caused so much damage to the marine life, it caused a lot of damage to the economy. Nature will eventually recover from this human disaster, but it will take a long time because nature does not expect human interference. Drilling is not allowed in the location anymore to allow the nature to stabilize as well as the local economy.

Sources

- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hurricane Katrina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hurricane_Katrina)
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater Horizon oil spill](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill)