

# How Humans Aided the Disaster in New Orleans

1

How Humans Aided the Disaster in New Orleans  
Nick Smith  
Beal College

Hurricane Katrina is regarded as one of America's costliest storms, I remember when I was a kid watching the news in seeing all the damage that it had caused. I also remember four years later in 2009 when the New Orleans Saints won the Superbowl and how much it meant to that City after

## How Humans Aided the Disaster in New Orleans

2

all the destruction had come to be. In this paper, I will explore the human effects that went to the hurricane, as well as exploring the timeline of the hurricane and what is done now to make sure America never takes play the big of a hit as it did on that day.

When Hurricane Katrina first hit me and it was considered a category 3 storm, Katrina's winds hit 120 miles per hour. During the storm, a little over 1,000 people died and 108 billion dollars property damage had occurred. Hurricane Katrina brought to light how unprepared the federal government was eating any place that was hit with that magnitude of a storm. Hurricane Katrina's effects are still felt today due to the fact that it's 15 years later New Orleans population is 80% of what it used to be before Hurricane Katrina. One other thing that was blamed how outdated the levies me to stop flooding you were and how quickly they broke.

When Hurricane Katrina 1st Street it was considered a tropical depression. Hurricane Katrina was considered a hurricane around the time it passed Miami and was considered a category 1 storm the winds at that point were blowing at about 80 miles per hour. However, after this Hurricane Katrina have you bumped down to a tropical storm since it no longer had access to the warm water needed to stay strong. Hurricane Katrina then went back into the Gulf of Mexico after Crossing Florida where it was able to regain its power as well as being bumped back up to hurricane status. Hurricane Katrina then grew to a category 3 hurricane and was so big its diameter was as big as the Gulf of Mexico.

## How Humans Aided the Disaster in New Orleans

3

Once Hurricane Katrina had gotten close to New Orleans in the mandatory evacuation was mandated. New Orleans had a population of nearly half a million out of that half a million only tens of thousands of people actually evacuated the city. High-ranking officials believe that the worst hurricane Katrina had passed before it hit New Orleans. These officials did not take into consideration that one of the outdated levees would break causing a huge surge of floodwater which would then start a domino effect breaking other levees that couldn't handle the vast amount of water. The day after Hurricane Katrina had struck it had weakened to a tropical storm but the damage had already been done. Only a few days later the city was in crisis mode, people as well as their pets for still stranded while buildings around them were collapsing due to the high flood water.

I believe after conducting my research on Hurricane Katrina the biggest human factor that led to the disaster was how unprepared as well as the lack of action taken by the government. One example would be in 1965 after a hurricane flooded the city the US Army built a system of almost 400 miles worth of levees. In 2006 a report was released that insufficient funding for construction left the levees vulnerable to high amounts of water. I believe if the government heeded these warnings and took action to fix the levees before Katrina it would have helped save America more money in the long run. I also believe that another big contributing factor to this disaster was how the US government in FEMA acted after the hurricane had passed still to this day New Orleans is building the proper defenses it needs to

## How Humans Aided the Disaster in New Orleans

4

survive another large-scale hurricane which is leaving it once again I'm prepared for another Katrina. In closing, I chose not to dive deep into the problems with global warming and such because at the time of Katrina it was too late to stop those global changes which help hurricanes form. I will leave the errors that FEMA in the US government made at that point in time aided the disaster even more.

## How Humans Aided the Disaster in New Orleans

5

### Sources:

Gibbens, S. (2019, January 16). Hurricane Katrina, explained. Retrieved from <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/natural-disasters/reference/hurricane-katrina/>