



Hurricane Katrina

Hurricane Katrina: A Nation Still Unprepared

This book summarizes the results of a comprehensive and bipartisan investigation of the many failures at all levels of government in preparing for and responding to the Hurricane Katrina disaster of late summer 2005.

The U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs conducted 22 hearings over eight months, heard testimony or collected interviews from more than 400 people, and examined more than 838,000 pages of documents to compile its Report.

It is more than a study of the Katrina catastrophe. It is a guidebook for improving the full spectrum of our preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery mechanisms to protect Americans from future disasters, whether natural or man-made.

"We knew Katrina was coming. How much worse would the nightmare have been if the disaster had been unannounced – an earthquake in San Francisco, a burst levee near St. Louis or Sacramento, a biological weapon smuggled into Boston Harbor, or a chemical-weapon terror attack in Chicago?"

"Hurricane Katrina found us – still – a nation unprepared for catastrophe."

"The United States Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs has prepared this bipartisan report to acknowledge what was done well, to identify what was done poorly or not at all, and to recommend changes in our national system for emergency response that will put local, state, federal, and private responders in a better position to provide prompt and effective relief when disaster strikes again."

– From the Note to Readers by Senator Susan M. Collins, Chairman, and Senator Joseph I. Lieberman, Ranking Member, of the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

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