



# Recommended Residential Construction for the Gulf Coast

Building on Strong and Safe Foundations

*FEMA 550 / July 2006*



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## About the Cover

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast with recordbreaking storm surge that destroyed foundations and devastated homes from Louisiana east to Alabama. Katrina was so destructive that engineers assessing the carnage no longer looked for “success stories” (i.e., homes that were only moderately damaged), but rather searched for “survivor” homes that, while extensively damaged, still bore a slight resemblance to a residential building. Hurricane Katrina proved that, without strong foundations, homes on the coast can and will be destroyed.

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