

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY ASSISTS ITS PERSONNEL IN PLANNING FOR HURRICANE RECOVERY

In the wake of recent hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma, it became obvious that many Navy and Marine Corps families were personally impacted. Government agencies released vast amounts of disaster-related information, but the challenge was how to get accurate, useful information to our people quickly. There was a need for safety guidance that was



Naval Air Station Key West, FL is flooded after being hit by Hurricane Wilma.

compiled in one publication and easily accessible to Sailors and Marines and their families. At the request of Commander, Navy Reserve Forces, the Naval Safety Center, Task Force Navy Family, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Navy Environmental Health Center, Commander, Naval Reserve Force, and Commander, Navy Installations developed a safety resource guide for Navy and Marine Corps personnel who may be affected by hurricanes or floods. The



A Sailor and his mother remove debris from their home devastated by Hurricane Katrina in Bay St. Louis, MS.

team reviewed website information and selected the most useful information for this guide.

The resource guide, *Guidance for Navy & Marine Corps Personnel Recovering from a Hurricane Disaster*, is for displaced individuals and families to use prior to returning home after a hurricane or flood to alert them to the physical, chemical, and biological hazards that they may encounter. Advance planning and familiarity with such hazards, as well as awareness of the health and safety consequences of exposures to those hazards, are necessary to protect returnees from injury and disease.

The health and safety of those returnees is a primary consideration. The Department of the Navy encourages its people and their families to implement the Navy's principles of *Operational Risk Management (ORM)* when returning home after being displaced by any type of disaster or catastrophe. Putting the Department of the Navy's ORM principles into practice maximizes protection from injury and disease as returnees inspect their property for damage, and clear out debris.



Sailors help residents of Pass Christian, MS clear away debris left by Hurricane Katrina.



Marines providing clean-up and humanitarian assistance in St. Bernard Parish, LA, which was hard hit by Hurricane Katrina.

The guide also covers the equally important topic of advance preparation for the emotional response to returning home after a hurricane disaster. Guidance is offered on coping with feelings of turmoil and loss of possessions that affected persons may experience due to the disruption to their lives and damage resulting from hurricanes, floods, or other disasters.

The concise, pocket-sized resource guide on recovery from a hurricane disaster that resulted from the combined efforts of many Navy commands was distributed to more than 2,500 active duty Sailors and Marines, retirees, and Department of the Navy civilians.

The guide and additional information about hurricane recovery assistance and resources can be found at the Naval Safety Center and Task Force Navy Family websites:

<http://safetycenter.navy.mil/seasonal/>
<http://taskforcenavyfamily.navy.mil/NavyFamilies/>

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