Hurricane Katrina: Response and Recovery Efforts Post Katrina: A 14 Year Analysis

Bethany Stich, Ph.D
Director, UNO Transportation Institute
Department of Planning and Urban Studies
bstich@uno.edu
Katrina Devastation

- First ever mandatory evacuation of the city 8/28/2005
- 26,000 residents at the Superdome
- 1,836 people died
- 53 breaches in surge protection levees
- 80% of the city was flooded
- 2/3 caused by multiple failures of the city's floodwalls
- $125 Billion in damages
- Displaced over 1 million people
Outline

• Lessons Learned
• Remaining Issues
• Innovative Solutions
• New Challenges
Lessons Learned

- People to People
- Use Everything
- Share Everything
- Don’t be a Victim
- Decide
- Commerce Will Find a Way
People to People

- Establish Relationships
- Prepare/Mitigate
- Trust
- Practice
- Politics is irrelevant
Use Everything

• Debris removal
  – From problem to asset
  – Creativity
• Opportunity
Share Everything

• Nothing is proprietary in a disaster
  – Codify
  – Train
  – Trust
• Public-Public
• Private-Public
• Misinformation
Don’t be a Victim

- Redundancy outside of the disaster zone
- Help for those that have to help
- Replace those who need replacement
- Plan for the inevitable
  - Human Resource
  - Basic Necessities
Decide

- Time
- Preparation
- Risk
- Determination
Commerce Will Find a Way

• Port of New Orleans
  – Value
  – System Breakdown
• Recovery and Resilience
Remaining Issues

• Federal Policy
  – Replace in-kind
• Population Loss
  – Houston victimization
  – Culture loss
• Housing Loss (200,000)
• Community
  – Charity Hospital
    https://vimeo.com/122496816
  – Public Housing (5,000 to 1,900)
• Communication
Innovative Solutions

• Adopt a Catch Basin
• Evacuspots
• Cajun Navy
• Big Data
  – Social Media
  – Information exchange
• 3D Printing
New Challenges

• Coastal Erosion
  – Land loss
  – Barrier Island Protections
• Gentrification (46%)
  – Population Change
  – Culture constraints
• Housing Prices
• Commerce Constrained
  – Mississippi River Gulf Outlet
• Cyber Security