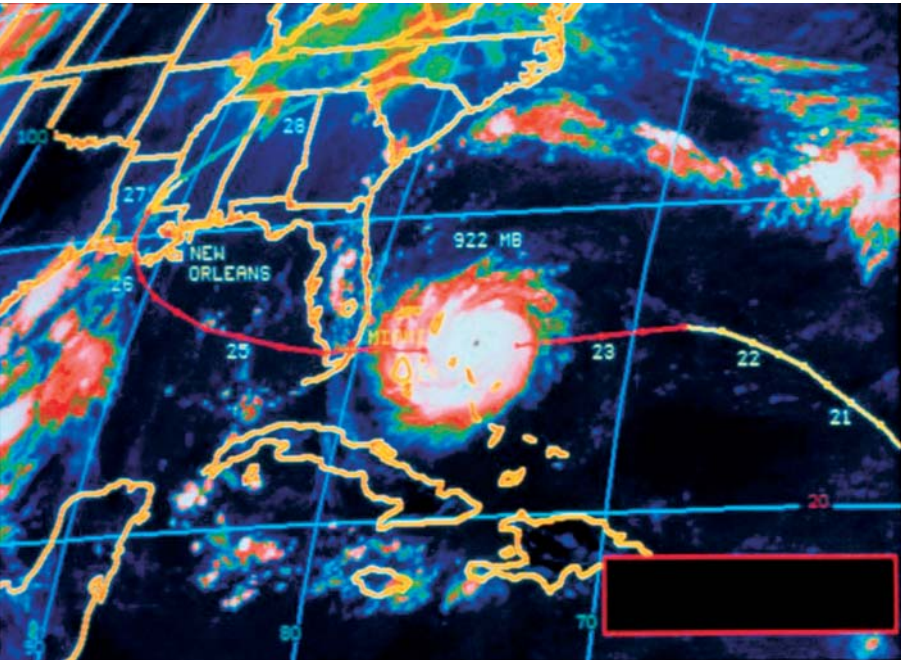


The Aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

With more than six weeks left before the official end of the U.S. hurricane season, 2005 is already one of the deadliest years in history. Since January, there have been several natural disasters culminating in Hurricane Katrina that devastated parts of Louisiana and Mississippi, and severely impacted Alabama in August. Florida was also impacted by Hurricane Katrina but to a much lesser extent. While much of Texas and Louisiana dodged the worst of Hurricane Rita in September, the damage to some small, rural towns was virtually complete and the storm was being blamed for new deaths long after it moved away.



Here is an update of impacted hospitals within these states, a look at hospital hurricane preparedness in Palm Beach, Florida, and an analysis of the long-term impact on the physician community in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Continued on page 2...

2005 Major Disaster Declarations

- 9/24/05 – Louisiana, Texas
Hurricane Rita
- 8/29/05 – Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida
Hurricane Katrina
- 8/23/05 – Louisiana
Tropical Storm Cindy
- 8/23/05 – Kansas
Severe Storms and Flooding
- 8/22/05 – Wyoming
Tornado
- 8/1/05 – Utah
Flood and Landslide
- 7/22/05 – North Dakota
Severe Storms, Flooding, and Ground Saturation
- 7/22/05 – South Dakota
Severe Storm
- 7/10/05 – Florida, Mississippi, Alabama
Hurricane Dennis
- 7/6/05 – Idaho
Heavy Rains and Flooding
- 6/29/05 – Maine
Severe Storms, Flooding, Snow Melts, and Ice Jams
- 6/23/05 – Nebraska
Severe Storms and Flooding Flows, and Mudslides

In this Issue...



Free Publication Offer!
Page 7

HYGEIA NEWS:	ING Employee Benefits Selects Hygeia as A Preferred Vendor	page 4
	Hygeia Introduces Upgraded Claim Processing Statements	page 4
PROVIDER SPOTLIGHT:	Universal Health System – Florida	page 5
MARKET WATCH:	Push for Electronic Medical Records	page 6
	U.S. Department of Homeland Security Decisions Allow for Ease of International Travel	page 6
STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:	Conferences, Publications, Websites	page 7
FAQ:	Healthcare Terminology – A Three Part Series: Part II	page 8



The Aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Continued from page 1...

Hospital Updates

Alabama

Alabama hospitals received minor damage, primarily due to wind and rain. Many patients from Mississippi and Louisiana have been transferred to these hospitals.

Hygeia Alabama Hospitals

Number of hospitals: 78

Status: All facilities are open

2005 Natural Disaster Declarations Continued from page 1...

4/19/05 – New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania
Severe Storms and Flooding

4/14/05 – Arizona
Severe Storms and Flooding

4/14/05 – California
Severe Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mud and Debris Flows

3/14/05 – Alaska
Severe Winter Storm

3/7/05 – Nevada
Heavy Rains and Flooding

2/18/05 – American Samoa
Tropical Cyclone Olaf, including High Winds, High Surf, and Heavy Rainfall

2/17/05 – Arizona
Severe Storms and Flooding

2/15/05 – Ohio
Severe Winter Storms, Flooding and Mudslides

2/8/05 – Kansas
Severe Winter Storms, Heavy Rains, and Flooding

2/8/05 – Kentucky
Severe Winter Storm and Record Snow

2/4/05 – California
Severe Storms, Flooding, Debris Flows, and Mudslides

2/1/05 – Utah
Severe Storms and Flooding

2/1/05 – Hawaii
Severe Storms and Flash Flooding

2/1/05 – West Virginia
Severe Storms, Flooding, and Landslides

Louisiana

As Hurricane Katrina approached, Louisiana hospitals in the storm's likely path were evacuated. As of October 10, 2005, the two largest hospital groups, Tenet Healthcare and HCA Healthcare report that four facilities each in New Orleans suffered serious damages. The two facilities operated by Universal Health Services hospital group and Louisiana State University's hospitals also remain closed. Very little additional damage was reported to any of the state's hospitals as a result of Hurricane Rita.

For the latest update on closed facilities, please visit the Louisiana Hospital Association website at www.lhaonline.org. The Hospital Status report is located on the home page.

Hygeia Louisiana Hospitals

Number of hospitals: 104

Status: 12 facilities closed (as of 10/10/05)

Mississippi

Tenet Healthcare's Gulf Coast Medical Center in Biloxi experienced serious damage during Hurricane Katrina. However, the ER is open, and radiology, lab services and limited cardiac diagnostic services are available. The facility is working with the State Health Department on a few minor clean-up issues, and anticipates opening twenty-five beds following clearance from the state.

For the latest update on this facility, please visit <http://www.gulfcoastmedicalcenter.com>.

Hygeia Mississippi Hospitals

Total Number: 43

Status: 42 facilities are open, 1 facility closed (as of 10/10/05)

Texas

While many hospitals along the Texas Gulf Coast are returning to normal operations following Hurricane Rita, some facilities in Southeast Texas face a long, slow recovery. In Beaumont, Port Arthur, Orange, Jasper, Woodville and surrounding communities, hospitals are being hampered by the lack of electrical power, fuel and other basic services. In addition, many suffered damage to their physical plants.

For the latest update on affected hospitals, please visit the Texas Hospital Association at www.thaonline.com

Hygeia Texas Hospitals

Number of Hospitals: 295

Status: 16 partially or fully evacuated hospitals (as of 10/10/05)

Florida

Florida hospitals were largely impacted by power outages during Hurricane Katrina. All facilities are fully operational.

Hygeia Florida Hospitals

Total Number: 206

Status: All facilities are open

Hospital Disaster Preparedness: A look at Palm Beach County and the Treasure Coast in Florida

Palm Beach County and Treasure Coast hospitals are prepared for a catastrophic hurricane and would be in better position to help patients than the New Orleans hospitals when they were pounded by Hurricane Katrina, according to local emergency management and hospital officials.

Continued on page 3...



The Aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Continued from page 2...



Three Palm Beach County hospitals – Good Samaritan, Palm Beach Gardens and Jupiter medical centers – are actually in hurricane evacuation areas, though the hospitals determine whether to remain open during a storm.

By state law, all Florida hospitals are required to have a disaster plan that is reviewed by county officials. Hospitals also meet regularly with one another and local emergency officials to review the plans that cover hurricanes and other emergencies.

While area hospitals work closely with county emergency officials, hospital administrators make the call on whether to close ahead of an approaching storm. Local hospitals have agreements with other hospitals to transfer patients if a hurricane forces them to evacuate.

Once the National Weather Service issues a hurricane watch, indicating a hurricane is likely within the next 36 hours, area hospitals typically stop elective procedures and try to discharge as many hospital patients as they safely can. That's because the hospitals would likely be operating on generator power following a storm and some patients may be better off at home or outside the area affected by the storm, hospital officials say.

All of the Palm Beach County hospitals communicate with one another and with county officials on the same radio frequency, which should alleviate any communication problems during a natural disaster. Also, Palm Beach hospitals would likely fare better than counterparts New Orleans because no hospitals are below sea level.

Source: Palm Beach Post

20,000 doctors affected by Katrina, possible up to 6,000 displaced

Hurricane Katrina and the city-swamping floods that drowned New Orleans and surrounding areas appear to have dislocated up to 5,944 active, patient-care physicians. A new University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill study reports that is the largest single displacement of doctors in U.S. history, and Hurricane Rita may have boosted the total by an unknown degree.

Nearly 6,000 is the approximate number of physicians doing primarily patient care in the 10 counties and parishes in Louisiana and Mississippi that have been directly affected by Katrina flooding," said Dr. Thomas C. Ricketts, deputy director for policy analysis at UNC's Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, and professor of health policy administration at the School of Public Health. "Over two-thirds – 4,486 – of those were in the three central New Orleans parishes that were evacuated."

The number displaced was also more than one-quarter of the total number of new physicians who start practice in the United States each year, according to Ricketts.

Of the physicians in the Katrina flood-affected areas, which included six Louisiana and four Mississippi counties or parishes, the majority, 2,952, were specialists with 1,292 in primary care and 272 in obstetrics and gynecology, the researcher found. Another 2,052 physicians were in 16 Louisiana parishes that FEMA identified as being severely affected (Level 1 Disaster Declaration). That included 144 residents in training as well as 1,032 specialists, 724 primary care physicians and 140 obstetrician-gynecologists. Doctors involved primarily in administration, research or education were excluded from the total.

Ricketts said that not only did many practicing physicians lose their practices and income, but practically all of the health records in the community health centers within the poorer neighborhoods of New Orleans were destroyed.

"One possibly positive result of the disasters could be greater support for electronic medical records, explained Ricketts. "Also, some health-care officials may see the opportunity to reorganize and restructure their efforts, although some physicians may decide to retire instead of re-opening their practices."

Hygeians Raise Funds for Hurricane Victims

The American Red Cross estimates that more than \$2 billion will be required to meet its cost for the emergency needs of Hurricane Katrina and Rita survivors. This is a sum 20 times greater than the relief provided by the Red Cross for all hurricanes in 2004. This assessment is based on the nearly one million people who require meals, shelter, financial assistance and other essential services over various periods of time.

As a part of our ongoing philanthropy program, Hygeians in both the Miami Lakes, Florida and Toronto, Canada offices donated personal funds to hurricane victims through the Red Cross organization. The corporation matched all funds at 100%. As the recovery and relocation efforts continue, we invite you to make a donation to the Red Cross in one of three ways - at the organization's link at www.hygeia.net, at www.redcross.org, or by mail to the American Red Cross, P. O. Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013.



American Red Cross