

HURRICANES HAPPEN

Rebuilding Southeast Louisiana Flood Damage Reduction is Planned

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**NATURAL HAZARDS CHARACTERIZE THE COASTAL
ZONE THAT **RIMs** THE GULF OF MEXICO.**

**THIS FRAGILE FRINGE as well call them includes all of
Southeast Louisiana and Three counties in
Mississippi.**

HURRICANE ARE COMMON:

**IN MISSISSIPPI EIGHT HURRICANES have had surges
of over 10 feet since 1860;**

In LOUISIANA, HURRICANES ARE ALMOST TOO NUMEROUS TO COUNT;

We started early – NO founded in 1718 and in **1722** a Hurricane destroyed a small German settlement. This is our first recorded instance of retreat. Other notable hurricanes were **1856** that destroyed a resort on a barrier island (320 perish); the **1893** hurricane destroyed Cheniere Camanada killing about 2,000; the **1915** storm flooded 25,000 homes in New Orleans with 13 ft surges in Lake Pontchartrain; Hurr Betsy **1965** flooded one-third of NO; **and now** Hurricane Katrina.

STORM SURGE WASHES ACROSS THE LOWLANDS;

RIVERS FLOOD;

LEVEES BREAK or ARE OVER-TOPPED

FILLING THE AREAS PROTECTED BY LEVEES.

HOMES,

CHURCHES, and

BUSINESSES FLOOD.

GROWING UP IN NEW ORLEANS, THIS IS ACCEPTED
BECAUSE “**HURRICANES HAPPEN**”

**BUT WE KNEW THE COLLARY - “FLOOD
DAMAGE REDUCTION IS PLANNED”.**

WE PRACTICED SURVIVAL IN SEVERAL WAYS.

FIRST, WE BUILT ON THE HIGHER GROUND

SECOND, WE ELEVATE

Such as the plantations

As Pier houses OR

As the New Orleans Basement

**THIRD, WE BUILT MORE LEVEES AND
BIGGER PUMPS.**

BECOMING OVERLY DEPENDANT ON
LEVEES AND PUMPS AS WE BUILT
ON DRAINED COASTAL
WETLANDS.

**TO COMPLICATE FACTORS, WE WANTED TO BE LIKE
THE REST OF AMERICAN**

SO WE BUILT ON SLABS.

AS A RESULT,

WE HAD FOUNDATION PROBLEMS,

WE WERE NO LONGER ABOVE THE HEAVY
RAINS;

WE WENT FROM PASSIVE FLOOD MITIGATION TO A
NEED FOR SAND BAGS AND ENCLOSURES.

AND THEN THE WORST OF ALL,

WE BELIEVED THAT SOMEONE ELSE WOULD
TAKE CARE OF US during an emergency.

BIG MISTAKE AS WE JUST WITNESSED.

WELL, “HURRICANES HAPPEN”

BUT “SURVIVAL IS PLANNED”

THE FIRST RULE IS

“TAKE CARE OF YOU & YOUR FAMILY”

THE SECOND RULE IS TO “PLAN TO SURVIVE”.

I CAN REMEMBER THE HURRICANE OF SEPTEMBER
1947

WE HAD LITTLE WARNING, PERHAPS 2-3 DAYS

WHEN THE DARK CLOUDS ROLLED IN FROM THE
SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST AND WIND SPEED
INCREASED WE KNEW THE HURRICANE WAS
HERE.

MY MOM AND DAD were well organized.

WE HUNKERED DOWN,

CAUSE THIS IS SOUTH LOUISIANA and
“HURRICANES HAPPEN”

WE PLANNED TO SURVIVE.

WE HAD A FAMILY EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN.

THAT WE WILL REBUILD IS NOT AN ISSUE.

HOW WE REBUILD IS THE QUESTION.

I SEE SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES.

**FIRST, WE RETURN TO TRADITIONAL
CONSTRUCTION FOR ALL NEW AND
REPLACEMENT HOUSES.**

**THIS IS THE ACCEPTED METHOD FOR FLOOD
DAMAGE REDUCTION GOING BACK OVER
300 YEARS.**

**WE MANDATE NO MORE SLAB-ON-GRADE
HOUSES UNLESS THEY ARE BUILT ON
MOUNDS ABOVE THE BASE FLOOD
ELEVATION**

**SECOND, WE ADVANCE TO THE PAST,
SURRENDERING THE VERY LOW AREAS THAT
ALWAYS FLOOD,**

AND INFILLING ON THE HIGHER GROUND.

THIRD, WE ACQUIRE THE VERY LOW AREAS FOR OPEN SPACE AND MAKE IT A PART OF THE OVERALL STORMWATER SYSTEM.

THESE AREAS BECOME PART DETENTION PONDS THAT MAY BE USED FOR COMPATIBLE ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS BALL FIELDS, etc.

TO ACCOMPLISH REBUILDING, WE FACE CHALLENGES:

1. People don't want to move.
2. We must provide for the Cultural Enclaves.
3. Local enforcement must be strengthened.
4. Government and the individual must form partnerships – that is – the individual must accept responsibility for their actions.
5. We need flexibility in Federal Programs so they are more adaptable to local needs while staying within the letter and spirit of the law for flood damage reduction

SUMMARY

NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO, THERE YOU ARE.

IN THE CASE OF SOUTH LOUISIANA – HURRICANES
HAPPEN.

IT'S BACK TO THE FUTURE

EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN.

BUT LET ME GIVE A **NOTE OF CAUTION!!!!**

THE FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY

NO MATTER WHAT WE DO, THERE ARE NO
GUARANTEES.

WE CAN ONLY INCREASE OUR CHANGES OF
REDUCING FLOOD DAMAGES BY DEVELOPING AND
IMPLEMENTING SOUND, RATIONAL PLANS.