

*Learn 12 Staggering Facts Why You Need To Build  
Your Emergency Action Plan Now!*

# THE STATE OF THE UNIONS

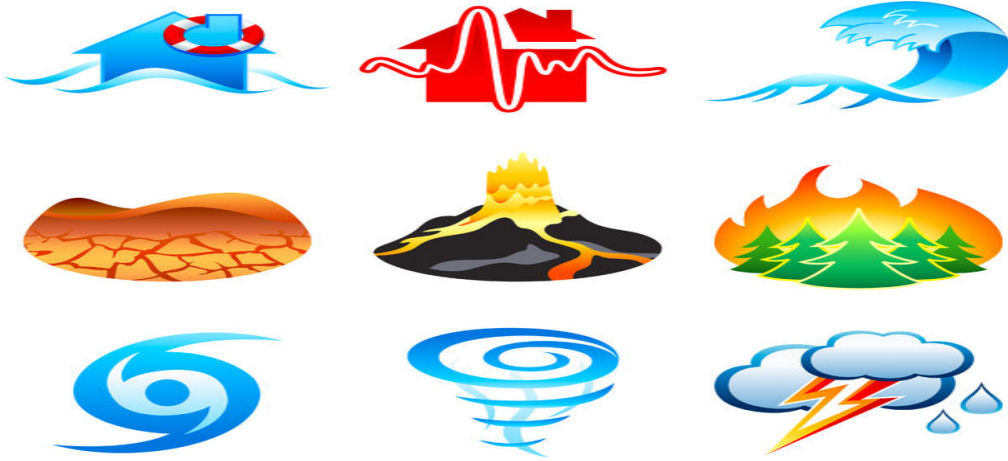
# UNPREPAREDNESS

BY DANIEL KILBURN

*You Owe It To Your Family and Loved Ones To Take Action Right  
Now And Claim Your FREE Report.*

*Understand What Will Be In Store For You If You Fail To Act!*

# THE STATE OF THE UNIONS UN-PREPAREDNESS



## 12 REASONS TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOURSELF

A report by: Daniel Kilburn

This report contains strong words and truths that some will find unsettling. If you think you can't handle what you are about to read, then STOP now.

**\*Feel free to print a copy of this report for your personal use\***

The report you are reading was originally written in 2006 after Hurricane Katrina and before my deployment to Baghdad. In 2009 I revisited this report to update it and discovered that nothing had really changed. The people were different, the terminology had changed a little, but nothing as far as American preparedness had gotten any better. Now in 2017 I am reviewing/editing the document again and I am sad to say that the same issues presented in 2006 are still with us in 2017. America is still terribly unprepared to face the emergencies and disaster that we will face in the coming year.

The aftermath of Hurricane Katrina brought to light some unsettling facts that have stayed with us for a long time now. We just haven't wanted to think about them or do anything about them, maybe they will go away.

Hurricane Katrina clearly demonstrated that we the people are grossly under prepared to act with a clear plan during any type of disaster that stretches the local government beyond capacity. Since then the subsequent emergencies and disasters have reaffirmed that we are personally unprepared to protect our families, we are professionally unprepared to protect our businesses and our government is unprepared to help us if we fail to take action for ourselves.

Once you have read through this report you'll be angry and know why you need to look out for yourself, your family and loved ones.

One thing that people in general do not know is that the government is absolutely not prepared to help you as an individual. I can guarantee that we do not have our names on a list that says, go get Billy, Bob, or Sue, they might need help, it's just not going to happen.

There are several reasons for this and I'm going to cover some of them in this report for you. We are going to examine a series of events that stretch back for several years. And we will examine the rationale behind our government's (local, state, federal) inability to assist us as individuals.

The barriers behind our individual inability to plan for events that could someday mean life or death for us, or our loved ones will be identified.

I can guarantee that some of you will get very upset with what you are about to read, and some of you will not like me at all for what I am going to reveal. That's fine; I want you to be upset and I do not care if you like me. **You want to think.**

I want you to think about what you will do when the unthinkable happens and you have done nothing to prepare for it.

Some researchers say that a person will act under certain circumstances, in a certain manor because of "instinct". This "instinct" is developed over time due to exposure to internal and external factors that influence our lives.

I will call it; CULTURE

**THE LEARNED AND SHARED BEHAVIORS AND PERCEPTIONS OF A GROUP THAT HAVE BEEN TRANSMITTED FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION THROUGH A SHARED SYMBOL SYSTEM.**

And Culture is transmitted through; ENCULTURATION

**THE PASSING OF CULTURE - THAT IS SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIORS AND ATTITUDES - FROM THE OLDER TO YOUNGER MEMBERS OF A GROUP.**

The bottom line is that what we do, or fail to do (good, bad, or indifferent) is a learned response.

**A:** This report will examine the Culture, and Enculturation process of the Government Agencies (Federal, State, and Local) that we have come to rely on during Emergencies, and Disasters.

**B:** Culture, and Enculturation the average citizen received through their life when choosing to act for the survival of themselves, and their loved ones.

So why do we behave this way?

Before we get going, I want you to know that I am in no way intending to place blame, criticize, or point fingers at anybody, or any organization. There are plenty of people out there doing that already.

We will simply look at the facts of our Culture. And look at the barriers to action that our politicians and so many people embrace so they can suffer and deprive themselves and their loved ones of the fundamental basics of life during an Emergency, or Disaster.

Emergencies and Disasters reflect long term problems actively ignored or not seen by the agencies that are charged with protecting the public. "These organizations are generally reactive"

Tom Beamish: Author "Silent Spill" (2002)

## Government inability to act in our best interest:

### ***Communications:***

Communications emphasize the importance of having accurate, timely and reliable information about true conditions on the ground. If we are lacking good

communications, our best efforts to coordinate a response will usually end in frustration.

One step the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) developed in 2006 to combat the lack of dependable information coming from the ground was to develop emergency reconnaissance teams that can go into a disaster area and feed back reliable, real-time information to be used at all levels of government. These teams were to consist of not only FEMA disaster assistance specialists, but also Coast Guard personnel, CBP, Secret Service, and other DHS law enforcement officers and assets (1). Current research into the subject of DHS emergency reconnaissance teams brings up very little current information on the subject. It is possible that the concept morphed into another concept with a different name.

A post-9/11 preparedness assessment developed in 2005 (2) found that 80% of local public health departments cannot communicate instantly with state health departments, hospitals or local medical practices. Just as on 9/11, when first responders radio for help, no one can hear because the networks are not compatible. This issue is more a fault with the manufacturers of the emergency communication equipment rather than the agency using it. This has not changed since Katrina. A recent (2011) procedure of FEMA was to distribute radios to each agency involved (3) so they could at least communicate with FEMA who supposedly was leading the response effort at the time. On the up side is that FEMA recognizes the issue and is attempting to mitigate it.

### ***Cooperation between Government Agencies (Federal, State, Local):***

There's a tendency for those coming in nationally or internationally to think they know what's best, thereby missing, and capitalizing on the greater knowledge, usually, of local conditions and local realities. (1)

One of the factors leading up to FEMA's failure during the response to Hurricane Katrina was the newly mandated Department of Homeland Security's attempt to absorb FEMA into its structure. The DHS is primarily a proactive law enforcement agency mandated with protecting us from future terrorist attacks.

Compounding the problem, elected officials and bureaucrats are generally more concerned with not being perceived as a failure than with solving a problem. Let me rephrase that. Elected officials and bureaucrats are more concerned with not being seen as a failure, than taking the risks to do the right thing. (4)

It is one of those damned if you do, damned if you don't kind of things.

***Let's play a little game here;***

Imagine you live in a coastal community. A Category 4 Hurricane is expected to make land fall within eight hours. The spaghetti track has it hitting somewhere within 50 miles one side or the other of your city.

You have prepared an Emergency Action Plan, your family is knowledgeable about what to do, you know your evacuation routes and you have a pre-determined shelter location a couple hours inland. You're pacing back and forth, trying to keep a good face for the kids and it comes. The Mayor has decided it's time to go. No problem, the car is already loaded with your supplies, now get everyone in the car and go.

All things considered the trip is uneventful, you arrive at the house of your friend who you have previously made plans with just for this type of situation. Watching the local news shows that there was a good turn of events. The Hurricane has turned and did not hit your city.

Answer this question: What's going through your mind right now? I am fairly certain that you are grateful that your city was spared and any damage will probably be light.

Are you grateful for the opportunity to practice your Emergency Action Plan under real conditions? Or are you upset over the time you have spent for nothing?

Now, let's look at another scenario.

The Mayor finally gives the evacuation order, but it is too late. The Hurricanes land fall is imminent and your egress is hampered by all of the traffic making a mad dash out of town.

What's going through your mind now?

Unfortunately, we live in a society that has been trained to remember the bad, more than the good. It is saddening that our elected officials are afraid to make a decision for fear of being perceived as doing the wrong thing. As opposed to doing the right thing. If Thomas Edison had that mentality, we would not have light bulbs.

### ***DHS; Proactive Terrorism fighters:***

Vital to the nation is the focus of DHS on terrorism and organizational safety. Protecting critical infrastructures and key resources from attack is vital to the nation. This alone makes them a proactive law enforcement agency that should have nothing to do with managing emergencies, (Natural, Manmade, etc.) Chertoff set up a system of agencies that will hopefully manage the next set of emergencies, and if not it not his fault. He's already been named the fall guy. (5)

In 2004 the former 9/11 commission issued the Homeland Security Department a grade of D (6), noting that the department has failed to produce an assessment of the top threats facing the nation and the areas of the country that are most vulnerable to an attack from terrorists or nature, even though Congress required it to do so the summer of 2003. Did the DHS have more important things to do, or did the DHS simply lack focus?

### ***FEMA; Reactive Emergency Response agency:***

FEMA's critical mission historically has been supporting the response and recovery of emergencies and disasters.

However, there seems to be a hyper-focus on immediate response rather than on disaster mitigation or long-term recovery. There's a lot more funding and attention paid to immediate response, and a lot less paid to disaster prevention and mitigation or long-term recovery." (7)

In 2005 DHS was asking for mandatory evacuation plans from every municipality that will seek Grant money to further strengthen their part in Homeland Security. Could be good, could be bad.

Smaller jurisdictions that are not vulnerable to hurricanes or tsunamis, and aren't in the planning zones for earthquakes or nuclear power plant accidents, have little need to plan for far reaching evacuation plans. But the powers that be have decided otherwise. Some far-fetched scenarios could be created where entire cities have to be evacuated, but it would be a waste of already stretched resources to create such a plan.

Yes, evacuation planning is good. But to carry it beyond common sense just confirms knee-jerk reactionary politics.

The Nationwide Plan Review Phase 1 Report February 10, 2006 (8) language has "evacuation" throughout, but it does not address the fact that once you evacuate people, you must plan a destination for these people, and what is going to be done with them once they get there. Who is going to pick up the tab?

Since then the Federal Government has requested/demanded that every County creates a Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA). Per the Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) 201, Second Edition "Every community should understand the risks it faces. By understanding its risks, a community can make smart decisions about how to manage risk, including developing needed capabilities."

Counties also should have a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) that will outline the County response to the risks identified in the THIRA. Both of these documents are available to the public. Call your County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and ask for copies.

### ***Individual governmental official focus:***

Failure to act with due diligence. Tom Ridge the first United States Secretary of Homeland Security stripped FEMA's power over billions of dollars worth of preparedness grants as well as the creation of a national disaster response plan (8). Most of the agency's top staff quit. And after he arrived at DHS in February 2005, Michael Chertoff decided to take away the rest of FEMA's preparedness duties. Leaving a preparedness and response directorate with no preparedness assets or responsibilities?

Eric Tolbert, chief of the agency's response division, said at that time he quit in 2005 because DHS was siphoning away "huge chunks" of his budget. Chertoff points out that FEMA's budget has increased since Sept. 11, but Tolbert said the periodic incursions "dramatically impacted my ability to maintain a readiness level." Even though the FEMA budget was increased, DHS took the funds for other projects.

FEMA paid a price in money, manpower, missions and prestige. Ridge was told that his organizational plan would cripple America's ability to respond to disasters. (9) And then (Katrina) FEMA was tasked to perform a mission it was no longer prepared to do.

DHS continued to divert some of FEMA's funds -- the staff called this the "DHS tax" -- along with manpower and missions. "The result has led to confusion and the duplication of mission areas within the Department.

## ***Interoperability:***

During the aftermath of Katrina, Emergency personnel began streaming into town. By the morning of Friday, Sept. 2, workers restored power to the city's land mobile radio system for police, fire and medical personnel. Still, interoperability remained a major problem. Various Louisiana parishes and the state use different radio frequencies and own different radio technologies. The same is true all over the United States. Emergency personnel in New Orleans ended up in many cases relying on Nextel portable phones sent there by the company's emergency response director, who was camped out at the Baton Rouge fairgrounds. Among the Nextel users were soldiers from the Army's 82nd Airborne Division, which was dispatched to conduct search and rescue missions. (10)

Manufacturers compounded the problem of incompatibility by providing hand-held devices based on proprietary technologies, making it impossible to communicate across systems, even if they operate on the same frequency.

A fair amount of emergency planning simply assumes that communications infrastructure - towers, microwave relays and electric or generator power - will mostly continue to exist and function. (10)

- a... 88% of the cities surveyed that say they do not have interoperable capability with Homeland Security agencies.
- b... 83% Say they are not interoperable with the Justice Department.
- c... 57% Say they are not interoperable with their state emergency management agency.
- d... 49% Say they are not interoperable with the state police.
- e... 38 911 call centers inoperative during Hurricane Katrina.

Sources: U.S. Conference of Mayors Interoperability Survey;  
Federal Communications Commission's Office of Homeland Security

Major Cell Carriers have been working on adding backup generators to their Cell Towers to augment the onboard batteries. These batteries generally have a four to eight-hour lifespan once activated. The biggest issue today is the theft of the generators and batteries at the cell tower.

<https://www.quora.com/How-many-hours-of-back-up-power-does-a-mobile-cell-tower-have>

<http://wirelessestimator.com/content/articles/?pagename=Cell%20Tower%20Backup%20Power>

## ***Management and Capabilities of the Emergency Operations Centers (EOC's):***

During specific emergencies the local governments will activate their EOC to manage the event at hand. The local EOC will then refer to their Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). Locating information on your county EOC/EOP should be located in the county Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP).

When properly trained exercised, reviewed, and revised. The EOP, should be the one document that encompasses all others. Politics should not come into the situation. Our elected officials need to be educated on their role in the EOP, and how the structure works. Unfortunately, most of our national elected officials are much too busy to be involved with something they hope they will never have to do.

Since 2004 the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has funded the Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) intended to respond to large scale public health emergencies. Current records indicate that there are 72 major metropolitan areas, and all states have tested and are capable of distribution. (12) Details should also be in the CEMP.

*\*Note\* (All Cities, Counties, and States have a CEMP. It is a public document that you can access.)*

We should be somewhat reassured that the federal government is amassing a national stockpile of medicine (11) and medical supplies to be shipped within 12 hours of a terrorist attack, major natural disaster or accident. In 2009 forty three states were not ready to distribute these critical supplies locally. And it took three days to accomplish this in New Orleans. The current plan for distribution within the affected municipality is 48 hours.

Looking at the number on a national basis most all communities are incapable of handling mass-evacuation and sheltering their residents. Most communities will identify their shelters in their local Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) but only a handful are certified by the Red Cross for hurricanes...

The Red Cross has new standards for hurricane shelters; its review of existing shelters in one particular city revealed that only nine meet the specifications. At the time there were 6,558 people living in the city's coastal and inland flood plains that would need to be evacuated in a Category 4 hurricane,

A different city has three shelters with a total capacity of 753. To fully implement its hurricane plan, it needs to increase its Shelter capacity to at least 1,640, funding, and shelters meeting the qualifications make this hard.

There are not enough shelters in most any city to meet the needs of the population. County OEMs will have the actual data for your community.

While everybody likes talking about risk management in theory, when you apply risk management in practice, people don't necessarily like the way it plays out. Risk management does not mean risk guarantee. It does not mean we protect every single person against every risk at every moment in every place. (13) That means some people are going to be disappointed. It will be better for the population to learn to manage their risks themselves.

### **Responder family preparedness:**

First Responders have a proportionally easier job if larger portions of a victim population are more prepared; Business owners can reopen shops much faster if their employees are ready to report back to work more quickly.

#### **International Red Cross:**

**"Disasters Will Outstrip Aid Effort. There is a natural limit somewhere to what humanitarian assistance can do; we are afraid that there will be a point where we can no longer provide assistance."**

Peter Capella, The Guardian of London June 29, 2001

An informal survey of EMS folks was conducted, and we learned that quite a few work at least two, in some cases, three or four paying EMS jobs. Throw in the ones that may work EMS as a paying job, but who also volunteer as firefighters, rescue, etc, and most communities would likely find they have far fewer responders than they believe. EMS personal have economic needs just like the rest of us. How many times have you held down more than one job? Unfortunately, during a major emergency or disaster there might not be as many First Responders to go around as we think.

Do not take it for granted that all LEO, Fire, EMS, or EMA folks are Prepared. Even chief officers lack personal planning and preparedness. I was informed by a professional in the EM field that when speaking to an active EMS employee, he said, "I can't ever remember ever being told to have my family ready or prepared in the event of an emergency or extended deployment to ensure their safety as well as assuage my concerns." I wonder how many fire departments actually bother to hold training for their employees' families.

From my experience, the numbers of first responders engaged in personal planning and preparedness for themselves and their families is only minimally improved over the Citizen population.

Citizen Corps National Survey 2009 demonstrated that only 44% of the respondents have a Household Disaster Preparedness Plan. (14)

This type of planning is not common. If you were to ask your local Office of Emergency Services (OES) what they would do to continue 24/7 operations if their building burned down. The odds are good that you would get a blank stare. EMS personal are just as un-prepared as the general population.

### **Complacency/Apathy seems to be the number one problem with public education on Emergency Action Planning.**

The issue is good, old fashioned denial. To expend effort on preparedness means people have to push through denial to be prepared. Often too much to consider in the course of our daily, routine lives.

A past satellite conference regarding Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath talked about risk perception. In the material for that conference showed that of the evacuees surveyed in the Astrodome:

73% indicated they had lived in New Orleans their entire lives

73% said they had heard that an evacuation order had been given,

Of that 73%, 79% heard it on television and 13% heard it on the radio

66% said they thought the info in the evacuation order was clear

61% did not evacuate for various reasons, of that 61% that did not evacuate:

29% did not evacuate because they didn't think the storm would be as bad as it was

10% did not evacuate because they didn't want to leave their homes

36% said they did not evacuate because they didn't have a vehicle

The conference material went on to reiterate that people are slow to change their beliefs and that they are more likely to believe information that is consistent with what they already think.

321,000 evacuees out of 469, 000 (based on the 2000 census), *60% of the entire population of New Orleans failed to take the appropriate action.* This is statically in line with the national average of Americans that are unprepared to respond to a major emergency. So, if you live in a community of 300,000 and have done nothing to prepare, then you will be in good company. You and 200,000 others that have failed to prepare, will want the same limited resources. You will not be alone.

## Individual barriers to act in our own best interest

### “Awareness always precedes a Behavior Change”

Those people that "really believe" that a disaster will happen to them in their lifetime are much more prepared than those that don't. Those that had been in the Bay Area during the 1989 Loma Prieta Quake were 100% "real believers". Those that were not, rated much lower. As time goes on without a new event, even those "real believers" fade.

80% or more of the equation is the belief that something really will happen to you. If you don't have that sense of impending doom, those who need to prepare will not.

The other 20% is the belief that preparedness will improve your quality of life, People need to understanding that there is no magic agency or stockpile of stuff that is going to magically appear and save them. Hurricane Maria has demonstrated in Puerto Rico a systemic failure of the local government and FEMA to needed supplies throughout the island. Community members need to be more involved in their own disaster management. Involvement is lacking across the United States. Is it happening in your town?

## **Public Education is an uphill battle:**

"Americans did not receive a wake-up call from Katrina," said New York University professor Paul C. Light. They say they lack time, money and information about what to do or where to get help, he said. (16)

Even though Chertof, Ridge, Brown and many other high-level politicians have repeatedly called for the American public to prepare for times of emergency and disaster, there is no one agency following through. The same agencies that are begging for the population to take charge in their own preparedness are jumping through hoops to save everyone that did nothing. Their asking us to be smart, and then rewarding those who have not done anything to prepare. Any wonder so few citizens follow through with planning? Individuals must play a central role in preparing themselves and their families for emergencies. (17) If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem.

## **Ask the average person on the street why they are unprepared:**

### **1. No Time.**

I understand your pain. No matter how we dice it there are only 24 hours in a day. When awake there is always something demanding my time. I decide what's important and I invest the time to do it. I watch a DVD with my granddaughter once a week. I listen to my iPod while I'm commuting, working out, walking the cat. I find the time to invest in myself. If you don't have the time to prepare yourself, then you're wasting time somewhere. If you can commit to one hour a day for one month you can put an Emergency Action Plan together. During the pre-Hurricane season of 2018 I developed a Beta training program. Over the course of 12 weeks it took about 22 hours to put a working plan together.

### **2. No Money.**

Well, if you're broke, it's obvious you're doing something wrong. I'm not trying to be judgmental. I've been broke before. I realize that I create my own reality, and that reality affects my family one way or another.

During my last complete EAP creation. The financial outlay for all the basic tools, equipment food, water, and accessories was under \$400. A plan will cost you less than you think.

### **3. No Information**

Information for Emergency Action Planning is everywhere. You have found this site so you're in good hands. Everything you will need is within your grasp. Go to Uncle Google and enter FEMA Are you ready. Are You Ready? An In-Depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness is the perfect place to start. Cost; \$0.00 your tax dollars have already paid for it. Download it and then call the FEMA Distribution Center at 1-800-480-2525 and ask for a physical copy to be sent to you.

### **4. No Need.**

Only a few groups of individuals will fall into this category:

- 1) If you live somewhere that has never seen a Natural Emergency, or a Manmade Disaster, you will probably never have to worry about the events that touch the rest of us. Drop me a line. I'm moving my family in. Really, is there such a place?
- 2) You're so rich that you have an assistant for everything. You've got your "get my coffee" assistant, your "get my newspaper" assistant, your "where's my car" assistant, you've even got your, "what am I supposed to think about this hour" assistant. I applaud you. You have surrounded yourself with intelligent dynamic people who work diligently to manage the success of your business empire. So tell me, has your Emergency Action Plan assistant trained you on what to do if he or she is not there to do it for you? Oh and do your, "get me out of here now" assistants have a plan for their loved ones???
- 3) It's not going to happen here. Why waste my time when I could be watching Cat Videos on Youyube.

### **4. No Interest.**

If you have read this report to this point, then you are clearly interested in knowing how to secure the health, safety, and welfare of your loved ones during times of serious emergencies, or disaster. Some people say that they aren't interested as a way to cover up a deeper excuse, often to hide the fact that they think they don't have the information, time or money. Are afraid of looking foolish or paranoid. Or just don't know where to learn how to become prepared.

## 5. No Way.

This excuse covers everything.

- I resist sales pitches
- I already have the information collecting dust on the shelf
- I already know all that
- I'm not smart enough to do it
- Why plan, it' is much more fun to ride it out

Yep there are several more. What yours? These excuses are coming from people who are afraid to think the hard thoughts and act on them. They are the same people who will blame someone else for not coming to the rescue fast enough.

## What's Left?

Unless you already have an Emergency Action Plan developed, practiced, and confirmed, you simply need to take action now. Watch the news, read the paper. Someone somewhere is having a terrible time because they were un-prepared. Do you want that to be you?

## The Benefits of having a Plan:

**Emotional:** You will know that you have done everything possible to ensure the immediate safety, health, and welfare of yourself and loved ones, during a time of emergency.

**Physical:** You and your loved ones will know where to go, when to go there, and what to do, reducing the risk of personal danger.

**Psychological:** Disasters and Emergencies create stress. You and your loved ones will not fall victim to these stressors because, you have already planned, and prepared for these events.

**Social:** Disasters and Emergencies will place a demand on the emergency personnel, and services in your community. Being prepared will make you an asset to the community, not a burden on the community.

## \*\*\*End Notes\*\*\*

State and local governments must take responsibility for the problem by holding drills and making it clear where people should turn for help in a disaster. But they

need to focus on citizen preparedness as opposed to just helping those who fail to help themselves.

What we need is training that puts us all on the same page. When that happens, a person can create their plan and if they move to a different location, with different risks they are already better prepared to adjust their plan for the local hazards.

FEMA needs re-tooling to enhance its vital capabilities so that it can fulfill its historic and critical mission supporting response and recovery.

FEMA has approved \$181 million in Community Disaster Loans to date, the first of many that will help keep essential services online in the hardest hit communities. A necessity, in fact, due to the massive displacement of the population base to at risk locations around the country.

A compilation of quantities of resources deployed to the Hurricane Katrina region. It includes: (18)

- \* (1) Katrina is the single largest natural disaster in FEMA's 26-year history.
- \* (45) States and D.C. received presidential emergency declarations following Katrina.
- \* (132) Disaster Recovery Centers open along the Gulf Coast.
- \* (14,000) federal personnel deployed to help state and local officials along the Gulf Coast.
- \* (40,000) units of manufactured housing and travel trailers are Housing for Katrina victims.
- \* (107,000) damaged roofs repaired by FEMA's "Blue Roof" program.
- \* (50,000,000) cubic yards of debris removed in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana.
- \* \$200,000,000 in unemployment assistance obligated.
- \* (\$1.7 billion) federal dollars allocated for public assistance projects.

In FY 15 FEMA provided \$1.6 billion in preparedness grant funds to address the risks and capability gaps the states identified. (21)

Historically Americans have demonstrated our compassion, selflessness, and willingness to help those in need.

One person can be selfless; an entire company cannot. Even individual Samaritans need institutional backup, communications, supply convoys, security, checklists, contact numbers, and established procedures. All of which takes money, time, and planning. "It has to be institutionalized," Zegart said, "so it's not dependent on individuals." One of the bitter lessons of Katrina is that the Trent Wards of the world can do only so much on their own. (19)

The bottom line is the government is not here to take care of us. (20) Though they will come in and pick up the pieces after the fact. It is our job to secure our own safety. It is our job to create a Culture of self reliance.

From terrorism to natural disasters, people live or die largely because of what first responders do or fail to do. That is why continued federal financing and support for first responders should remain a national, and not just a selectively regional, priority.

**"We realized that when a disaster happened, whether an earthquake, storm or terrorist activity, the people on the scene were actually the first responders and, in a major event, they were often the only responders for possibly long periods of time. "** Frank Lucier, San Francisco FD Retired

Some of the resistance to doing the right thing includes change. We're asking Government Agencies, and private individuals not only to change the technology and think differently about disaster response. We're asking them to change the entire Emergency Planning Culture they have used for the past 35 years,

So, what are you going to do? Take charge and secure the safety of your loved ones and yourself. Or leave the health, safety, and welfare of your loved ones and yourself in the hands of a total stranger. It's your choice.



Daniel Kilburn

## Reference Material Used for this report.

These links are being provided as a convenience and for informational purposes only; they do not constitute an endorsement or an approval by Emergency Action Planning of any of the products, services or opinions of the corporation or organization or individuals.

Emergency Action Planning bears no responsibility for the accuracy, legality or content of the external site or for that of subsequent links. Contact the external site for answers to questions regarding its content.

(1) Chertoff remarks Nov 4, 2005:

<https://www.hsdl.org/?abstract&did=474591>

(2) post 9/11 preparedness assessment:

[http://www.phf.org/infrastructure/phfpage.php?page\\_id=46](http://www.phf.org/infrastructure/phfpage.php?page_id=46)

(3) Interoperable Communications

<https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/videos/77622>

(4) Tom Beamish: Author "Silent Spill" (2002)

<https://www.questia.com/library/journal/1P3-579967971/silent-spill-the-organization-of-an-industrial-crisis>

(5) Chertoff remarks July 2005:

<https://www.tsa.gov/news/releases/2005/07/13/secretary-michael-chertoff-us-department-homeland-security-second-stage>

(6) Complete 9/11 Commission Report:

<http://govinfo.library.unt.edu/911/report/index.htm>

(7) Study shows response failures By; Susan Kim

<http://www.disasternews.net/news/news.php?articleid=2427>

(8) Nationwide Plan Review Phase 1 Report February 10, 2006:

<https://training.fema.gov/hiedu/docs/nationwide%20plan%20review%20-%20phase%201%20report.pdf>

(9) Michael Grunwald and Susan B. Glasser Washington Post Staff Writers  
Friday, December 23, 2005; Page A01

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/12/22/AR2005122202213.html>

(10) Missed Signals: By David Perera

<http://www.govexec.com/magazine/features/2006/02/missed-signals/21097/>

(11) National Stockpile of Medicines:

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/stockpile/>

(12) Cities Readiness Initiative:

<http://www.cdc.gov/phpr/stockpile/cri/index.htm>

(13) Remarks by Chertoff, Dec 2005:

<https://www.tsa.gov/news/releases/2005/12/20/remarks-homeland-security-secretary-michael-chertoff-dhs-accomplishments>

(14) Personal Preparedness Survey: 2009:

<https://www.ready.gov/personal-preparedness-survey-2009>

(16) Storms Had Little Impact on Readiness, Study Finds  
By Spencer S. Hsu, Washington Post Staff Writer

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/11/17/AR2005111701497.html>

(17) The Federal Response to Hurricane Katrina: Lessons Learned.

<https://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/reports/katrina-lessons-learned/>

(18) By the Numbers: First 100 Days

<https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2005/12/06/numbers-first-100-days>

(19) Hurricane response shows gaps in public-private coordination:

By Sydney J. Freedberg Jr, National Journal:

<http://www.govexec.com/defense/2005/12/hurricane-response-shows-gaps-in-public-private-coordination/20867/>

(20) U.S Adults Believe Federal, State and local Governments Should Have Been Better prepared:

<http://www.harrisinteractive.com/news/allnewsbydate.asp?NewsID=975>

(21) Written testimony of FEMA Protection and National Preparedness Deputy Administrator Timothy Manning:

<https://www.dhs.gov/news/2016/04/12/written-testimony-fema-senate-homeland-security-and-governmental-affairs>