



THE STORY BENEATH THE SURFACE

Jack Kingston, Vice-Chairman House Republican Conference



NAGIN: Hurricane Plan Implemented, This Time

During the natural (national) disaster that was Hurricane Katrina, it has been widely reported that there were a number of questions about the failure of some to implement their hurricane emergency response plan **before** the hurricane hit, including reluctance to order voluntary/mandatory evacuations, and the failure to use public transportation systems to help those who can not move themselves.

Remember these?



With **Hurricane Rita** (Cat 1) possibly heading for a slowly recovering New Orleans ([LINK](#) or [LINK](#)), the mayor of New Orleans quickly instituted the hurricane emergency response plan.

The question: **Should local officials have adhered to this same plan when a category five threatened the city three weeks ago?**

On evacuating...

The mayor **immediately called for a mandatory evacuation** of many of the New Orleans residents who have returned or never left. (Gary Estwick, Susannah A. Nesmith and Eric Frazier (Knight Ridder) via San Jose Mercury News, "Storm threatens ravaged coast," 9/19/2005. [LINK](#))

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin said on Monday he was suspending the resettlement of his stricken city because of **grave concerns a new storm may hit in the next few days**. "The conditions have changed. We have another hurricane approaching us," Nagin told a news conference days after encouraging some residents to return to the city devastated by Hurricane Katrina three weeks ago. (Reuters, "Nagin suspends New Orleans re-entry due to new storm," 9/19/2005. [LINK](#))

Nagin (now) on use of buses...

Nagin ordered residents who slipped back into the still-closed parts of the city to leave immediately. He also urged everyone already settled back into Algiers to be ready to evacuate as early as Wednesday. **The city requested 200 buses to assist in an evacuation. They would start running 48 hours before landfall from the downtown convention center and a stadium in Algiers.** (Michael Rubinkam, Associated Press, "Mayor suspends reopening of New Orleans," [LINK](#))

The mayor, as well as Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, said **buses would be in place to evacuate those who needed transportation**. The governor said more details of the evacuation plan would be available Tuesday. (Gary Estwick, Susannah A. Nesmith and Eric Frazier, Knight Ridder, "Storm threatens ravaged coast," 9/19/2005. [LINK](#))

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