

November 2005

Hurricane Katrina – Emergency Response and Recovery



In August 2005, Hurricane Katrina devastated the United States Gulf Coast causing over 1,000 fatalities and billions of dollars in damage. Critical oil and chemical facilities were impacted by this storm. This storm, the 2004 tsunami, and other natural events — floods, earthquakes, blizzards, tornadoes — demonstrate that none of us are immune to catastrophic impacts of a natural disaster. They remind us of the importance of emergency planning at all levels — from a plant incident to a natural disaster impacting millions of people. Preparation and planning are essential to minimize damage, rescue victims, and recover from the disaster.

Did You Know?

- Every facility — plant, depot, warehouse, laboratory, office — should have a plan for emergency response for all types of natural and human-caused incidents. Does yours include weather-related incidents?
- Everybody has a role! Some are direct responders, such as members of the fire brigade, others are responsible for shutting down operations, still others are required to leave their work area to get out of danger. But, everyone has something they **MUST** do!
- Practice is essential to good emergency response. That is why we have fire drills and other tests. Follow up the drills with a critique — what went well and what could have been done better?



Fire after an earthquake ⇒
in Turkey in 1999.

⇐ Aftermath of an
earthquake in Japan
in 2003.



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What You Can Do

- Learn your facility AND community emergency response plans and understand what you have to do.
- Participate in drills and take them seriously.
- Develop a personal emergency response plan for your family. Think about what kind of disasters could occur where you live — hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, fires, floods. Make sure everybody in your family knows where to go and how to get there. Think about how to get back in touch if you are separated.
- Excellent emergency response is a result of excellent preparation. So be **READY!**



Your Response to an Emergency Should Be No Accident!

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