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Effects of Hurricane Katrina From Levee Failures

Mass Communication

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Hurricane Katrina was a major natural disaster that affected countless lives and changed the course of history for New Orleans, Louisiana, making landfall on August 29th, 2005. A hurricane is a tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 74 mph or higher with 1 to 5 rating based on a hurricane's maximum sustained winds and typically formed in tropics. Hurricane Katrina was a deadly Category 5 hurricane that made landfall in Florida and Louisiana, causing catastrophic damage from central Florida to eastern Texas and resulting in 1800 fatalities alone in New Orleans. This study is a qualitative research project that shows the impact of the levee failures in New Orleans. The study was conducted through literature review of prior studies, as well as review of reports following the events of Hurricane Katrina. Through the analysis of these reports and studies, it was indicated that over 50 levees protecting the city failed, which was compounded by the flood wall failure. The results from this study indicate that with proper attention to detail, most of the levee system would not have failed and much of the flooding would not have occurred. Together, with lack of prior preparation of proper evacuation plans and methods, ultimately lead to the higher rate of fatalities seen in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina.