

## **Hurricane Katrina Project:**

### Objectives:

- 1) To understand the factors related to the disaster cycle by investigating the preparedness, response, and recovery related to the 2005 Katrina hurricane.
- 2) To evaluate the preparedness, response and recovery in terms of criteria that are developed early in the project.

### Report components:

Each of the 6 groups of 4-5 students will act as a team to conduct independent research on the hurricane. The final oral and written reports by the teams should include a discussion of three disaster elements: A) the prediction and preparedness for the hurricane, B) the official and unofficial responses to the hurricane, and C) the recovery from the hurricane. Obviously, the recovery will not be complete by the end of the semester. Use all resources available during the allotted period of study.

Each team must define its own objectives and cite the constraints of the project scope. Individuals within each group will have specific tasks which must be indicated in the report. This will require a great deal of discussion among team members. However, the oral and written reports will receive a single grade that will apply to all individuals in the group. One of the class exams will be based solely on each individual's interpretation of the hurricane. The study should include an evaluation of the following elements including unforeseen positive and negative events:

- Origin of the storm
- Tracking of the storm
- Storm warnings and their effectiveness
- Response to the warnings
- Official response plans
- Recovery plans

### Milestones

- Outline the responsibilities for each team member
- Gather and discuss data
- Formulate conclusions
- Prepare and present a PowerPoint talk (one person presents for the group)
- Write a short (5 page) report on the hurricane (one report for each group)
- Take a one-hour exam based on an analysis of the disaster (the hurricane, the response, and the recovery).