

A trail of destruction

A chronology of Hurricane Katrina's devastating path through the Gulf Coast in 2005

**Wednesday
Aug. 24, 2005**

Katrina becomes the 11th named storm of the 2005 hurricane season.

**Thursday
Aug. 25, 2005**

Tropical Storm Katrina is declared a hurricane as it approaches the eastern coast of Florida. The eye of the Category 1 hurricane makes landfall near Miami with winds gusting to 80 mph.

**Friday
Aug. 26, 2005**

The hurricane moves into the Gulf of Mexico and is headed toward the U.S. Gulf Coast.

**Sunday
Aug. 28, 2005**

The National Hurricane Center says the hurricane has become a Category 5 storm. Evacuation orders are given for New Orleans and the Mississippi and Alabama coasts.

**Monday
Aug. 29, 2005**

Hurricane Katrina makes landfall on the Louisiana coast, east of New Orleans. The storm destroys areas of the Gulf Coast; Biloxi and Gulfport, Miss., are among the hardest hit.

**Tuesday
Aug. 30, 2005**

Sections of two levees break allowing water from Lake Pontchartrain to flood areas of New Orleans and leaving at least 80 percent of the city underwater. Both Mississippi and Louisiana are plagued with looting.

**Wednesday
Aug. 31, 2005**

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin estimates the death toll for the city is in the thousands. The federal government declares a public health emergency to accelerate efforts to help hurricane victims.

**Thursday
Sept. 1, 2005**

Conditions in New Orleans grow worse as food and water disappear, and transportation out of the city is limited. President Bush asks former Presidents Bill Clinton and George H.W. Bush to help raise funds for the hurricane relief efforts.

**Friday
Sept. 2, 2005**

A National Guard convoy arrives in New Orleans to provide water, food and security. President Bush visits Mobile, Ala.; Biloxi, Miss.; and New Orleans to survey the hurricane damage.

SOURCES: NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER, CNN, MCT



MICHAEL AINSWORTH/DALLAS MORNING NEWS/MCT

Residents make their way through floodwaters from Hurricane Katrina to the Superdome in New Orleans on Aug. 30, 2005.



PATRICK SCHNEIDER/CHARLOTTE OBSERVER/MCT

Ky Hoang walks among the littered remains of a street in Biloxi, Miss., trying to salvage belongings from his parents' destroyed home on Aug. 30, 2005.



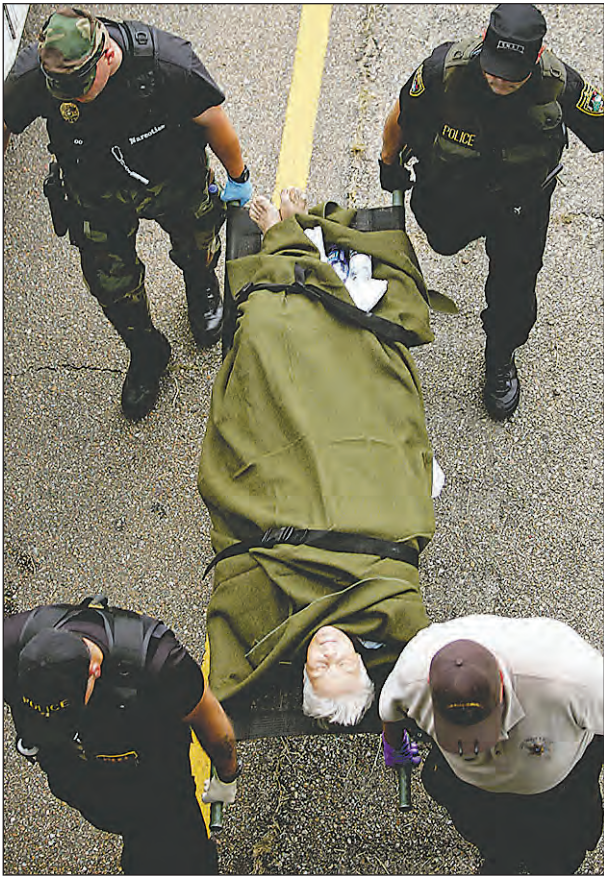
KHAMPHA BOUAPHANH/FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM/MCT

Victoria Mueller breaks down in tears while waiting hours for food and supplies in Metairie, La. on Sept. 1, 2005.



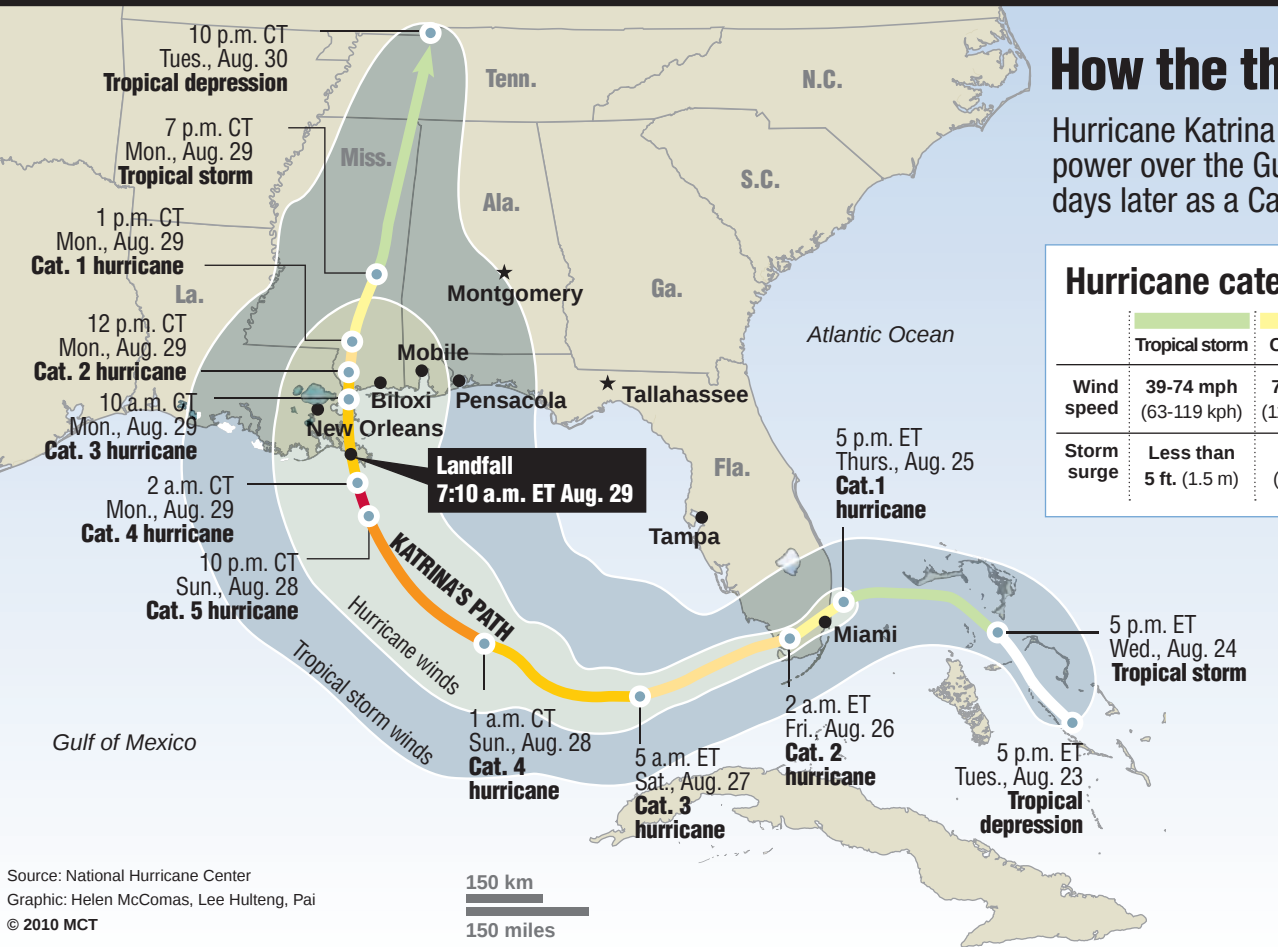
KHAMPHA BOUAPHANH/FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM/MCT

New Orleans police are pulled away from rescue efforts to deal with looters throughout the city.



KHAMPHA BOUAPHANH/FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM/MCT

Outside of New Orleans, a patient is transported to a makeshift transport hub for medical attention on Sept. 1, 2005.



How the threat developed

Hurricane Katrina hit Florida as a Category 1 storm, gained power over the Gulf of Mexico and hit Louisiana three and a half days later as a Category 3 monster.

Hurricane categories

	Tropical storm	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4	Category 5
Wind speed	39-74 mph (63-119 kph)	74-95 mph (119-153 kph)	96-110 mph (154-177 kph)	111-130 mph (178-209 kph)	131-155 mph (210-249 kph)	155+ mph (250+ kph)
Storm surge	Less than 5 ft. (1.5 m)	4-5 ft. (1.2-1.5 m)	6-8 ft. (1.8-2.4 m)	9-12 ft. (2.7-3.7 m)	13-18 ft. (4.5-5 m)	More than 18 ft. (5.5 m)



SCOTT FISHER/SUN-SENTINEL/MCT

Katrina nears the Florida coast and gains hurricane status on Aug. 25, 2005.