

Re: OT: followup on New Orleans – disgraceful

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- *From:* Fred Bloggs <nospam@xxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 02 Sep 2005 23:52:21 GMT
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John Woodgate wrote:

I read in sci.electronics.design that Fred Bloggs <nospam@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote (in <43182A6B.4080709@xxxxxxxxxxx>) about 'OT: followup on New Orleans – disgraceful', on Fri, 2 Sep 2005:

For example, there are many scientific NIH funded social studies that tell us with absolute certainty that the majority of black people will not believe a damned thing the government or any authority figure tells them- duhhhhh- that means we have a quantifiable estimate of the number of people who will refuse an evacuation order- duhhh- last minute evacuation orders will not work for them- and many of them had no where to go and no means to get there- duhhh- what does an evacuation order accomplish- duhhhh. This list could go on for another 10 pages-

Sure, Fred, a lot of truth in what you say. But what would you have done in the days leading up to the strike, given that of course the problem should have been foreseen and dealt with years ago?

OK, it's easy to ask questions. I don't know exactly how much authority the city government has, and whether the state government was concerned or indifferent, but, IF POSSIBLE, I would have called on the leaders of the black and poor white communities (including the clergy?) to communicate the need for action, and provided the free bus transport that's now being provided, or maybe more easily, free rail transport to wherever in-state or elsewhere there is usable accommodation

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and supplies - mothballed service camps maybe. And brought in the National Guard to assist the police BEFORE the event.

You're on the right track there, over here it would be called establishing a network of evacuation plan community activists. But this needs to be started well in advance of the hurricane season. The Super Dome was a good idea up to a point, you would not want to truck people 300 miles away unless it was absolutely necessary, so the idea of nearby safe areas with prepositioned food and other supplies with emergency power backup would work best. Only when the unthinkable happens do you transport them long distance. I hesitate to suggest just exactly when this plan goes into effect- since participation is NOT optional- depending upon storm behavior by way of a firm track, this should be put in motion when the 3-day NHC forecast puts them at greater risk than x% for potentially damaging storm surge and executed no later than 24 hours prior to estimated time of arrival. Usually when human life is involved, people hesitate to compute that "x", so what has occurred in the past is to make "x" somewhat equal to some other background probability of catastrophe of low frequency and over which we have absolutely no control. Any suggestions?