

ASPR TRACIE Technical Assistance Request

Request Receipt Date (by ASPR TRACIE): 7 November 2018

Response Date: 20 November 2018; links checked 8 March 2024; updated 5 May 2025

Type of TA Request: Standard

Request:

The requestor asked for assistance in locating After-Action Reports (AAR) for Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Harvey.

Response:

The ASPR TRACIE Team reviewed existing Topic Collections and conducted a search online for AARs specific to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Harvey. Section I in this document includes AARs. Section II provides resources that include additional helpful information.

The ASPR TRACIE Team would also like to highlight the following resources:

- [ASPR TRACIE Select Hurricane-Related Resources](#)
- [Hurricane Resources at Your Fingertips](#)
- [Electronic Health Records Topic Collection](#)
- [Natural Disasters Topic Collection](#)
- [Pharmacy Topic Collection](#)
- [Recovery Planning Topic Collection](#)

I. Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Harvey: After-Action Reports

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2006). [Hurricane Katrina After Action Report](#).

This AAR identifies the strengths and areas for improvement related to the all-hazards preparedness and response efforts by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention specific to Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Federal Emergency Management Agency. (2018). [2017 Hurricane Season FEMA After-Action Report](#).

The Federal Emergency Management Agency conducted an after-action review of the agency's preparedness, response, and recovery operations following Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria in 2017.

Harris County (TX) Fire Marshal's Office. (2017). [Hurricane Harvey: Fire/EMS After-Action Report](#).

This AAR identifies strengths and areas for improvement related to the response and recovery activities carried out by Harris County (TX) fire and emergency medical services departments during Hurricane Harvey in 2017.

Miller, H., McNamara, J., and Jui, J. (2005). [Hurricane Katrina - After Action Report OR-2 DMAT](#). Homeland Security Digital Library.

This AAR provides strengths and recommendations for areas for improvement specific to the OR-2 Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) that was activated to respond to Hurricane Katrina relief efforts in 2005. This DMAT primarily provided medical care to evacuees at the New Orleans International Airport.

National Emergency Management Association. (2006). [EMAC 2005 Hurricane Season AAR](#).

(**NOTE:** Users must click on the respective year and then click on the “download” box to unzip the report files.)

This AAR provides strengths and lessons learned specific to response efforts from the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) during the 2005 hurricane season to include hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

National Emergency Management Association. (2018). [EMAC Response to the 2017 Hurricane Season AAR](#).

(**NOTE:** Users must click on the respective year and then click on the “download” box to unzip the report files.)

This AAR provides strengths and lessons learned specific to response efforts from the Emergency Management Assistance Compact during the 2017 hurricane season.

Texas Health and Human Services. (2018). Texas Department of State Health Services Hurricane Harvey Response: After-Action Report. (**NOTE:** Contact the [ASPR TRACIE Assistance Center](#) for a copy of this document).

This AAR provides a review of state-level public health and medical preparedness and response activities in Texas specific to Hurricane Harvey in 2017.

Texas Hospital Association. (2018). [Texas Hospital Association Hurricane Harvey Analysis](#).

The Texas Hospital Association met with hospital representatives and agency partners from areas affected by Hurricane Harvey to discuss experiences prior to, during, and after the storm. This document highlights identified areas for collaborative improvement for future disasters and outlines how to incorporate next steps.

The White House. (2006). [The Federal Response to Hurricane Katrina: Lessons Learned.](#)

This resource provides lessons learned and recommendations for areas of improvement specific to the federal government response to Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

II. Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Harvey: Lessons Learned and Other Relevant Resources

ASPR TRACIE. (2024). [Natural Disasters Topic Collection.](#)

The resources in this Topic Collection highlight lessons learned from recent events, communication tools and information, and checklists, plans, tools, and templates that can be modified to suit specific threats and needs. **NOTE:** Refer to the [Lessons Learned: Hurricanes](#) section for a comprehensive and updated list of lessons learned specific to hurricanes.

ASPR TRACIE. (2024). [Hurricane Resources at Your Fingertips](#). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response.

This ASPR TRACIE document provides numerous hurricane-related resources applicable to a variety of stakeholders and audiences.

ASPR TRACIE. (2017). [Health and Social Services Recovery Lessons Learned from the 2016 Louisiana Flooding.](#)

Speakers from Louisiana share how they managed their recovery, organized, designed, and implemented federally compliant recovery programs, and delivered the best possible services to their communities. **NOTE:** The title page of the presentation includes a link to the recording. You will need to enter your name and email address prior to accessing the recording.

ASPR TRACIE. (2022). [Healthcare System Recovery Timeline: A White Paper for Texas.](#)

Following a number of related technical assistance requests and in anticipation of future information needs from healthcare systems impacted by current and future disasters, ASPR TRACIE developed this white paper to answer the question: “How long does it take the healthcare system to recover from a major hurricane?”

ASPR TRACIE. (2025). [Major Hurricanes: Potential Public Health and Medical Implications.](#)

This ASPR TRACIE resource was developed to provide a short overview of the potential significant public health and medical response and recovery needs facing hurricane- and severe storm-affected areas, based on past experience and lessons learned from Hurricanes Katrina, Sandy, Harvey, and others.

Dorsey, D., Carlton, F., and Wilson, J. (2012). [The Mississippi Katrina Experience: Applying Lessons Learned to Augment Daily Operations in Disaster Preparation and Management](#). Southern Medical Journal. 106(1).

The authors share how lessons learned in patient movement and other planning and response capabilities have been incorporated since Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast. The authors highlight the development of Mississippi MED-COM, a statewide medical communications center, to serve as a “hub for patient coordination and movement during emergency incidents.”

Gray, B. (2006). [After Katrina: Hospitals in Hurricane Katrina; Challenges Facing Custodial Institutions in a Disaster](#). The Urban Institute.

This document discusses the challenges facing hospitals before, during, and after Hurricane Katrina.

Kaiser Family Foundation. (2013). [Addressing the Health Care Impact of Hurricane Katrina](#). Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured.

This paper addresses the overarching healthcare status of the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina and their potential impact on other locations across the nation. It describes issues related to public health, emergency/trauma care, primary care, medication access, acute hospital care, long term care, and mental health care.

Levy, L. (2006). [Lessons Learned from Katrina](#).

The speaker details the experience of the Tulane National Primate Research Center—which houses more than 5,000 non-human primates on 500 acres—when preparing for, responding to, and recovering from Hurricane Katrina.

Markle Foundation. (2006). [Lessons from KatrinaHealth](#).

This report describes how KatrinaHealth, an online service developed to help Hurricane Katrina survivors, worked with healthcare providers to grant them access to evacuees' records of medications (including dosages). The authors also share successes and challenges of the program and recommendations for the future.

Sanford, C., Jui, J., Miller, H., and Jobe, K. (2007). [Medical Treatment at Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport after Hurricane Katrina: The Experience of Disaster Medical Assistance Teams WA-1 and OR-2](#). (Abstract only.) Travel Medicine and Infectious Disease. 5(4):230-5.

The authors describe the patient evacuation that occurred after Hurricane Katrina—the largest air evacuation in U.S. history. They also highlight the multiple factors that “diminished the effectiveness” of the entire operation (e.g., the length of time it took to stand up medical triage to track and move patients, understaffing, and failure to use the incident command system).

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response. (2018). [ASPR Healthcare System Recovery Guide: Hurricane Harvey](#).

This document highlights common post-disaster recovery planning challenges for small and medium-sized healthcare facilities; shares strategies for short- and long-term recovery; and identifies support resources. Information is presented in four categories: financial and legal; operational planning; workforce; and training and testing.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response. (2017). [Hurricane Response – Resources for Children with Special Health Care Needs](#).

HHS ASPR created this webpage after Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria caused major damage across a large swath of the southeastern United States and its territories. These resources can help individuals, families, communities, and professionals stay up-to-date and recover from the storms.