Overview of Hurricane Activities at The National Academies

NSF-NSB Workshop on Hurricane Science and Engineering

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http://www.nationalacademies.org/basc/
The National Academies

- Serve as independent advisors to the Nation on science, engineering, and medicine.
- Origins in 1863 under President Lincoln; NRC founded in 1916 as the working arm of the NAS.
- Unique strengths of our studies:
  - Stature of Academies’ memberships
  - Ability to get the very best to serve
  - “Pro bono” nature of committee service
  - Special relationship to the government
  - Independence, scientific objectivity, balance
Past Work Related to Hurricanes

- Drawing Louisiana's New Map: Addressing Land Loss in Coastal Louisiana (OSB, 2006)
- Lessons Learned Between Hurricanes: From Hugo to Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne (Disasters Roundtable, March 8, 2005)
- Environmental Public Health Impacts of Disasters: Hurricane Katrina (IOM, October 20, 2005)
- 10-year effort to guide modernization of the National Weather Service
- Assorted efforts to help develop observation technologies and prediction methods
Current and Potential Future Work

- November 14-15, 2005 “meeting of experts” “Strengthening Scientific and Technical Responses to Hurricane Katrina”
- Committee to Review New Orleans Regional Hurricane Projects
- Committee on Estimating and Communicating Uncertainty in Weather and Climate Information
- Workshop on Disaster and Hazard Research in the Social Sciences
- Committee on Mitigating Shore Erosion Along Sheltered Coasts
- Workshop on Rebuilding for Health, Sustainability, and Disaster Preparedness for the Gulf Coast (in planning)
- Hurricanes and Climate Change (under discussion)
- Hurricane Forecasting: Progress, Challenges and Opportunities (under discussion)
In Summary

- Many different parts of the National Academies have conducted and are moving ahead with a variety of work related to hurricane science and engineering.

- Our November 14-15, 2005 workshop set the stage for future work but we do not have an organized program.

- This area is ripe for research of many types, although always with an eye toward communication, coordination and effectiveness.
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