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**UNPREPARED, UNCOORDINATED, OVERWHELMED:
KATRINA EXPOSES FAILURES IN POST-9/11 DISASTER RESPONSE**

**FRONTLINE presents
THE STORM
Tuesday, November 22, 2005, at 9 P.M. ET on PBS**

***The Storm follows a separate NOVA report on the science
of Katrina, Storm That Drowned a City***

www.pbs.org/frontline/storm

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, FRONTLINE investigates the chain of decisions that slowed federal response to the devastation in New Orleans. The film exposes how and why federal and local officials failed to protect thousands of Americans from a broadly predicted natural disaster and examines the state of America's disaster-response system, restructured in the wake of 9/11, on *The Storm*, airing Tuesday, November 22, 2005, at 9 P.M. ET on PBS (check local listings).

FRONTLINE correspondent Martin Smith (*Private Warriors*) interviews a comprehensive lineup of key participants from New Orleans to Washington, including former Federal Emergency Management Agency Director Michael Brown—in his first televised interview since he resigned. Other interviewees include Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco, New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin, former Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge and former Deputy Secretary James Loy.

According to Brown, he misled the public in his televised statements during the crisis in order to quell panic: "I'm not going to go on television and publicly say that I think that the mayor and the governor are not doing their job and that ... they don't have the sense of urgency," says Brown. "I'm not going to say that publicly." Privately, he thought Governor Blanco's requests were vague and confused. Meanwhile, Blanco remembers it differently: "Nobody ever told me the kinds of things that they could give me. ... I wanted whatever assets they had."

The mayor of New Orleans, Ray Nagin, tells FRONTLINE that valuable time was lost in negotiation over who should take charge. "I didn't care who got the job done, whether it was a state or whether it was the feds," says Nagin. "In my sense, there was a dance going on about who had ultimate authority."

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Leo Bosner, an emergency specialist with 26 years at FEMA, says Brown couldn't be effective because he lacked Cabinet rank. "Brown was just fine as long as things could go on automatic pilot, for the ordinary little floods, the ordinary hurricanes," says Bosner. "But when something would come along that's going to take a FEMA director who has the stature ... to call the White House if need be and say: 'Mr. President—I need to talk to the president in five minutes. We have to do something on this.' He was just out of his depth."

The Storm examines the parallels between FEMA's response to Hurricane Andrew in 1992 and Katrina. "After Hurricane Andrew ... everyone realized that FEMA had been a dumping ground for political favors and political appointees," said Richard Clarke, who was White House counterterrorism coordinator in 1992. "And the Clinton administration said, 'OK, we don't want to have that happen on our watch.'" Under President Clinton, FEMA was given Cabinet status and would gain a reputation as one of the most effective and best run agencies in Washington.

But in the wake of 9/11, FEMA was downgraded from a Cabinet-level agency to a subdepartment under the new Department of Homeland Security. Former Secretary Tom Ridge argues that FEMA was not hurt by the reorganization, but Michael Brown disagrees. "There was almost \$80 million that was taken out of FEMA's budget to use in other areas of the Department of Homeland Security," says Brown.

Even though communications was a major priority for the Department of Homeland Security after 9/11, four years on, little progress has been made. Ridge tells FRONTLINE that more time is needed. "You act as if you could snap your fingers and you could develop a nationwide interoperable system," says Ridge. "It's a very expensive proposition."

According to Clarke, with few national standards on how to prepare for natural disasters or terrorist attacks, local officials are left to spend billions of dollars with little direction. "There are no specific goals, no specific requirements," says Clarke. "As a result, we have cities that bought bulletproof vests for canine patrols, so that we have dogs with bulletproof vests. We have cities that bought air-conditioned garbage trucks with homeland security money without ever solving their communications problems."

The Storm follows a separate NOVA report on the science of Katrina, *Storm That Drowned a City*, airing at 8 P.M. ET on PBS (check local listings). In less than 12 hours on August 29, Hurricane Katrina transformed a city into an uninhabitable swamp. NOVA investigates a shaken New Orleans in the storm's aftermath, providing a penetrating analysis of what science got right, what went wrong, and what can be done in the future, punctuated with moving eyewitness testimony and exclusive expert interviews.

The Storm is a FRONTLINE co-production with RAINMedia, Inc. The producers are Marcela Gaviria and Martin Smith. The writer and reporter is Martin Smith. FRONTLINE is produced by WGBH Boston and is broadcast nationwide on PBS. Funding for FRONTLINE is provided by the Park Foundation and through the support of PBS viewers. FRONTLINE is closed-captioned for deaf and hard-of-hearing viewers. FRONTLINE is a registered trademark of WGBH Educational Foundation. The executive producer for FRONTLINE is David Fanning.

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Promotional photography can be downloaded from the PBS pressroom.

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