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Abstract:

When Hurricane Katrina struck the USA's Gulf Coast in 2005, many myths emerged. The myths of Katrina encompass the "new" insights into disaster risk reduction, incorporating emergency management, which were ostensibly "learned" from the event, even though they were lessons which were re-learned or, in fact, re-identified without necessarily being learned and applied. This paper selects six such lessons, giving an overview of the pre-Katrina knowledge which was available and which should have been used in order to avoid these concerns recurring due to Katrina:

- •Community-based disaster risk reduction.
- •Disaster shelter.
- •Disaster diplomacy.
- •Evacuees with special needs.
- •Reliance on structural defences.
- •Swiftwater rescue.