

Public Response in Hurricane Lili

Prepared by
Jay Baker
Hazards Management Group

For
FEMA and USACE

Sample

- 6 clusters of 300 interviews
- 1 cluster in Texas
- 5 clusters in Louisiana
- 1800 telephone interviews total

Sample

Cluster

Counties/Parishes

Texas

Chambers, Jefferson, Orange

Louisiana 1

Cameron, Calcasieu, Jefferson Davis

Louisiana 2

Vermillion, Acadia, Lafayette

Louisiana 3

Iberia, St. Mary, St. Martin, Iberville

Louisiana 4

Terrebonne, Assumption, Lafourche, St. Charles,
Jefferson (lower), Plaquemines (lower)

Louisiana 5

Ascension, St. James, St. John, Tangipahoa (part)

Evacuation Rates

- Texas 40%
- Louisiana 1 49%
- Louisiana 2 56%
- Louisiana 3 54%
- Louisiana 4 40%
- Louisiana 5 24%

Evacuation Rates In Louisiana

- North of I-10 36%
- South of I-10 47%
- Parishes on not on the Gulf 41%
- Parishes on the Gulf Coast 54%

Reasons Offered for Not Evacuating

(multiple responses from some respondents)

- Home Safe, Given Strength of Storm 54%
- Forecast to Miss Location 39%
- Officials Didn't Say Evacuate 19%
- Traffic/Too Late to Leave 12%
- No Place to Go 10%
- Job Required Staying 6%
- Friend/Relative Advice 5%
- Protect Property from Storm 3%
- Pets 3%
- Protect Property from Looters 2%

Reasons Offered for Evacuating

(multiple responses from some respondents)

- Concern about Strength, Effects of Storm 54%
- Advice from Officials 50%
- Anticipated Track 22%
- Advice from Friends/Relatives 23%
- Advice from Media 14%
- Experience in Previous Storms 11%
- NHC Watch/Warning 3%

Heard Evacuation Notices from Officials

| | Texas | Louisiana |
|---------------|-------|-----------|
| Heard Must | 6% | 13% |
| Heard Should | 47% | 32% |
| Heard Neither | 47% | 55% |

Evacuation Rate by Type of Notice “Heard”

| | Evacuation Rate in | |
|------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| | Texas | Louisiana |
| If Heard Must | 74% | 78% |
| If Heard Should | 50% | 54% |
| If Heard Neither | 25% | 32% |

Believe Home Would Be Safe Place in 145 MPH Hurricane

| | Texas | Louisiana |
|------------|-------|-----------|
| Safe | 29% | 31% |
| Not Safe | 63% | 64% |
| Don't Know | 9% | 6% |

Evacuation Rate by Belief Home Would be Safe Place in 145 MPH Hurricane

| | Evacuation Rate in Texas | Louisiana |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| If Believed Safe | 34% | 31% |
| If Believed Not Safe | 45% | 53% |
| If Don't Know | 23% | 24% |

Evacuation Rate by Housing Type

Site-built

Mobile Home

39%

78%

Evacuation Rate in Lili by Response in Previous Storms

| | If Evacuated in Previous Storm | If Stayed in Previous Storm |
|----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Isidore | 83% left in Lili | 35% left in Lili |
| Georges | 69% left in Lili | 34% left in Lili |
| Andrew | 70% left in Lili | 24% left in Lili |

(e.g., 83% of people who evacuated in Isidore also evacuated in Lili; 35% of people who stayed home in Isidore evacuated in Lili)

Type of Refuge Used by Evacuees

| | Texas | Louisiana |
|-----------------|-------|-----------|
| Public Shelter | 8% | 6% |
| Friend/Relative | 55% | 65% |
| Hotel/Motel | 26% | 22% |
| Other | 11% | 8% |

Households with Someone Requiring Evacuation or Sheltering Assistance from Agency

Texas

Louisiana

2%

4%

Type of Assistance Required

- Transportation 27%
- Special Shelter Care 37%
- Both 10%
- Other 13%
- Don't Know 13%

Location of Refuge of Evacuees Leaving Their Own County/Parish

| <i>to:</i> | <i>from:</i> | |
|------------------|--------------|-----------|
| | Texas | Louisiana |
| Own Neighborhood | 5% | 21% |
| Own Count/Parish | 11% | 16% |
| Louisiana | 1% | 40% |
| Texas | 98% | 12% |
| Arkansas | 1% | 2% |
| Oklahoma | 1% | <1% |
| Mississippi | 0% | 5% |
| Other | 1% | 4% |

Percent Relying a Great Deal on Various Information Sources

| | Texas | Louisiana |
|---------------------|-------|-----------|
| Local TV | 70% | 76% |
| The Weather Channel | 44% | 50% |
| Local Radio | 25% | 42% |
| Other Cable | 15% | 21% |
| Word of Mouth | 11% | 19% |
| CNN | 14% | 18% |
| Internet | 8% | 7% |
| AOL | 2% | 4% |

Would Respond Differently Next Time

- 9% who left in Lili would stay next time
- 11% who stayed in Lili would leave next time