

Lesson 8
Katrina

Readings:

1. The Brookings Institution, *Event Transcript of [Hurricane Katrina: Where do We Go From Here?](#)* (Washington, DC: The Brookings Institution, September 8, 2005): read the Falkenrath and Nivola sections, pp. 1-22, or watch the video of their statements accessible on the website. The remainder of the transcript is recommended but not required reading.
2. US House of Representatives, Committee on Homeland Security, *[Hearing on "Federalism and Disaster Response: Examining the Roles and Responsibilities of Local, State, and Federal Agencies,"](#)* October 19, 2005. Read the Bush and Samuel testimony.

Study Questions:

1. What are local government responsibilities in responding to major emergencies? State responsibilities? Federal?
2. What Constitutional issues does Katrina highlight?
3. What were the key failures at each level of government?
4. What reforms and actions are required in the wake of Katrina?