



# FEMA

## MODEL HOUSES DEMONSTRATE STRONG BUILDING TECHNIQUES

**Biloxi, MS** - In their efforts to help in the recovery process from Hurricane Katrina, the Community Education Outreach (CEO) Group of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designed two scale model houses using the 2003 International Building Codes with input from the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA).

The FEMA model houses demonstrate construction techniques that will help buildings withstand Category 3 hurricanes or other severe weather events.

One design, The Waveland, is elevated and illustrates home construction that protects against storm surge and wind. It was named for Waveland, Mississippi, which was almost completely destroyed by Hurricane Katrina's wind and record storm surge.

The second is a slab-on-grade prototype model, The Hattiesburg, designed to mitigate wind damage. It is named for Hattiesburg, Mississippi, located 65 miles inland, which suffered substantial wind damage during Katrina.

Both models were designed by FEMA engineers to provide visible examples of mitigation construction techniques and materials, including hurricane ties for bracing joints and full-sized timbers angled to withstand winds.

Local high school vocational students, home improvement stores, building officials, FEMA and the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes are involved in constructing the scale prototypes. Materials for the project have been donated by building supply companies in Mississippi.

Mississippi coastal high schools with a focus on building construction in their vocational programs have agreed to build more mitigation house models as school projects. Currently, Harrison County Schools including D'Iberville High School are implementing the project in their vocational technical curriculum.

The models are being displayed throughout Mississippi counties hit by Hurricane Katrina. In July, the model was featured at the joint Alabama-Mississippi Hurricane Workshop, in Mobile, Alabama, where FEMA director David Paulison was very positive about the project. The model house was also a popular attraction at the Mississippi 2006 Governor's Conference held mid-August in Biloxi, where delegates to the conference inspected the model and asked questions about its construction. Other display venues have included Edgewater Mall in Biloxi, and Singing River Mall in Gautier, Mississippi.



Multiple Counties, Mississippi



### Quick Facts

- Year: **2005**
- Sector: **Public**
- Cost: **Amount Not Available**
- Primary Activity/Project: **Education/Outreach/Public Awareness**
- Primary Funding: **Local Sources**