

# Hurricane Katrina

*A Decade of Progress through Partnerships*

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## Robert J. Curry Public Safety Center

2218 15th Street, Gulfport, Miss. 39501

Applicant: City of Gulfport

FEMA Funding: **\$8.4 million**

Harrison County

**BACKGROUND:** When the original Gulfport Police Station was destroyed in 2005 by Hurricane Katrina, the Gulfport Police Department had to conduct their services from temporary stations provided by FEMA. The new Robert J. Curry Public Safety Center – named in commemoration of Lieutenant Robert J. Curry, who died in the line of duty in 2008 – opened in February 2011 and provides the city of Gulfport with essential municipal services.



The 73,500 square foot, three-story complex covers an entire city block and is home to the Police Community Services, Municipal Courts and Police Administration. The safety center is built to FEMA 361 design and construction guidance for community shelters. It is also used as a first responder shelter to house more than 275 personnel for pre and post-disaster functions.

**DAMAGE:** The original Gulfport Police Station was damaged beyond repair in 2005 by Hurricane Katrina.

**FEMA FUNDING:** The FEMA funding includes a Public Assistance Grant of more than **\$2.8 million** and a Hazard Mitigation Grant of more than **\$5.6 million**. Measures to make the center more resistant to future damages include: impact resistant glass, water storage tank, back-up sewer storage, emergency generators, structural strengthening, strengthened roof membrane and copings, and encapsulated external air conditioning condensing units with louvers to protect against wind driven debris. A contained air quality assurance unit to mitigate outside contaminants from entering the building was also installed and the facility is elevated above the 500-year flood plain.



FEMA

