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The Deadliest Tsunami in History?

[National Geographic News](#)
Updated January 7, 2005

[Tsunamis: Facts About Killer Waves](#)

The earthquake that generated the great Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004 is estimated to have released the energy of 23,000 Hiroshima-type atomic bombs, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

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Giant forces that had been building up deep in the Earth for hundreds of years were released suddenly on December 26, shaking the ground violently and unleashing a series of killer waves that sped across the Indian Ocean at the speed of a jet airliner.

By the end of the day more than 150,000 people were dead or missing and millions more were homeless in 11 countries, making it perhaps the most destructive tsunami in history.

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Hurricane Katrina

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This article is about the Atlantic hurricane of 2005. For other storms of the same name, see [Tropical Storm Katrina \(disambiguation\)](#).

Hurricane Katrina was the costliest and one of the deadliest [hurricanes](#) in the history of the [United States](#). It was the sixth-strongest [Atlantic hurricane](#) ever recorded and the third-strongest landfalling U.S. hurricane ever recorded. Katrina occurred late in August during the [2005 Atlantic hurricane season](#), and devastated much of the north-central [Gulf Coast of the United States](#). Most notable in media coverage were [catastrophic effects](#) in the city of [New Orleans, Louisiana](#). Katrina's sheer size devastated the [Gulf Coast](#) over 100 miles (160 km) away from its center.

Katrina was the eleventh named storm, fifth hurricane, third [major hurricane](#), and second [Category 5 hurricane](#) of the 2005 Atlantic season. It formed over the [Bahamas](#) on [August 23, 2005](#), and crossed southern [Florida](#) as a moderate [Category 1 hurricane](#) before strengthening rapidly in the [Gulf of Mexico](#) and becoming one of the strongest hurricanes ever recorded in the Gulf. The storm weakened considerably before making its second landfall as a Category 3 storm on the morning of [August 29](#) in southeast Louisiana.

The storm surge caused major or catastrophic damage along the coastlines of [Alabama](#), [Mississippi](#), and [Louisiana](#), including the cities of [Mobile](#) (Alabama), [Biloxi](#) and [Gulfport](#) (Mississippi), and [Slidell](#) (Louisiana). [Levees](#) separating [Lake Pontchartrain](#) and Lake Borgne from New Orleans were breached by the surge, ultimately flooding roughly 80% of the city and many areas of neighboring [parishes](#). Severe wind damage was reported well inland. Katrina is estimated to be responsible for \$81.2 billion (2005 US dollars) in damages, making it the costliest hurricane in U.S. history. The storm killed at least 1,836 people, making it the deadliest U.S. hurricane since the [1928 Okeechobee Hurricane](#). Criticism of the federal, state, and local governments' reaction to the storm was widespread and resulted in an investigation by the [United States Congress](#) and the resignation of FEMA head [Michael Brown](#).

Hurricane Katrina

Category 5 hurricane (SSH5)



Hurricane Katrina near peak strength on August 28, 2005

Formed [August 23, 2005](#)

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Associated Press

Large Fires Burn in Calif., 8 Other States

By JEREMIAH MARQUEZ , 07.16.2006, 11:27 PM

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Fire crews struggled Sunday to quell wildfires still raging across steep, rocky swaths of this desert region, as the harsh terrain slowed efforts to fully contain the blazes that have destroyed 58 homes and scorched more than 120 square miles.

Large wildfires are burning in nine states, most in the West, according to the National Fire Information Center in Boise, Idaho.

Two major fires in the California desert have merged, which fire officials

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Death toll of bird flu rises to 42 in Indonesia

www.chinaview.cn 2006-07-17 12:50:30

JAKARTA, July 17 (Xinhua) -- Death toll of bird flu in Indonesia rose to 42 after a WHO laboratory confirmed another human bird flu death, making the sprawling nation move closer to becoming the world's hardest hit nation by the virus, the health ministry said on Monday.

A World Health Organization laboratory had confirmed the bird flu death of a 3-year-old girl, bringing the country's death toll from the virus to 42.

Since it was detected in 2004 in Indonesia, bird flu has killed millions of chickens across the country. The first human casualty from bird flu there was reported in 2005.

The H5N1 Bird flu has killed at least 132 people worldwide since it started ravaging Asian poultry stocks in late 2003, according to WHO. Enditem

Related: [WHO test confirms 41st human bird flu death in Indonesia](#)

BEIJING, July 15 (Xinhuanet)-- A US laboratory confirmed a three-year-old Indonesian girl who died in hospital in Jakarta last week had bird flu, a health ministry official said on Friday.

A World Health Organization-recognized laboratory in Atlanta confirmed she had the

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