

Besides the obvious destruction of natural disasters, an often unknown killer post disaster is found in water and sanitation related diseases. Contrary to popular concern, the risk of illness is mostly unrelated to contact with dead bodies and instead to poor sanitation and lack of access to clean water post events. The most common diseases are water-borne, water-washed and vector based such as cholera, leptospirosis, and malaria respectively. Disease prevention is majority on a case by case basis but all disaster mitigation plans should include continual access to clean water and sanitation for displaced peoples. Post-disaster, especially floods and hurricanes, clearing drains to prevent stagnant water is the only way to deal with vector caused diseases. We looked at a specific case study of the outbreak of waterborne diseases after natural disasters that focused on the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Due to the city of New Orleans being situated below sea level, infrastructure was struck hard by the category 3 storm, and many of the city's levees were destroyed. Due to the loss of infrastructure and mass-flooding, diseases post-Katrina rose rapidly due to intense crowding and other vectors, such as mosquitos.