

The existing 100-year floodplain and Katrina's path of destruction

What you're seeing on this map

This map shows the existing 100-year floodplain in Biloxi and the initial assessment of property damage caused by Hurricane Katrina. The 100-year floodplain, which is determined by FEMA and is currently under review, is an area where structures have a 1 percent chance of flooding in any given year. The damage assessment shown on this map was conducted Sept. 7, nine days after the storm, by teams of inspectors from the city's Community Development Department. The inspectors used pre-Katrina satellite-generated photographs of the city to help determine the extent of storm damage. The figures in the initial damage assessment – 5,014 structures destroyed, amounting to a fifth of all structures in the city – will certainly increase as inspectors perform detailed reviews of structures throughout the city.

More info

You can see an enlarged version of this map on the city web site at biloxi.ms.ms. Click on "Initial Damage Assessment" at bottom left of front page of the site. You can also find FEMA's proposed revisions to the floodplain while on the city web site.

Hurricane Katrina by the numbers

Here are some of the numbers compiled regarding Hurricane Katrina:

- 3,167 – number of students in Biloxi public schools when classes resumed Sept. 26 (compared to 6,125 enrolled pre-storm)
- 5,014 – number of structures destroyed by storm (of 25,575 pre-storm structures)
- \$54,795 – amount of gaming tax city would be collecting per day if casinos were operating (\$20 million a year; 35 percent of city's annual operating revenue)
- \$92,000 – amount city agreed to pay in July for a \$10 million business interruption insurance policy in the event casinos were shut down by a storm
- \$500,000 – amount of gaming tax state is losing per day with casinos closed down
- More than 1 million cubic yards – amount of storm debris that had been removed from city streets and public rights-of-way as of mid-November. (This amount of debris would cover a football field with and stand more than 47 stories high)
- 10 million to 12 million – number of annual visitors to Biloxi and Mississippi Gulf Coast pre-Katrina (compared to 1 million a year before gaming was legalized)
- \$50 million – initial estimate on cost of removing debris from city rights of way (number will increase with removal of debris from private property, which is in the offing)
- More than 75 million – number of viewers who have seen the 50-plus stories that networks and cable news channels have broadcast about Biloxi and its Katrina recovery efforts

