

ID 131 mjm  
Date: 3/28/13

In-class essay (5 minutes)

**Explain the challenges of making the decision to evacuate prior to hurricane landfall,**

1) from the perspective of a local government official issuing such an order:

We want to protect our people but don't want to excessively waste \$ doing an unnecessary evacuation. We want to give people + businesses enough time + make sure evacuation plan has the capacity for the size of the storm. We don't want people to disregard what we say by issuing too early of an evacuation, but we want them to have enough time to prepare + depart.

and 2) from your own personal perspective, following such an order:

I don't want to burden other friends + family too long by staying with them throughout the storm. I want to be safe + have enough time to pack up all my valuable items. I don't have a car so would have to rely either on a local shelter, friends, or gov. transportation.

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Explain the challenges of making the decision to evacuate prior to hurricane landfall,

1) from the perspective of a local government official issuing such an order:

I don't want people to get complacent and view the next evac/big storm as "more a curiosity and a nuisance" than a major threat (NY times). On the other hand, I don't want to excite panic + chaos.

MSO, I don't <sup>want to</sup> underestimate how much effort, cost, & time it takes to prepare for such a storm, which needs careful planning + preparation.

It's hard to gauge the risks & hazards of hurricanes; preparation is a lot of work but it's worth the cost of many lives & repairs.

and 2) from your own personal perspective, following such an order:

I don't want my life to be heavily burdened/time wasted if ~~there's~~ there's not actually a high risk.

What if I'm living with the elderly, young child/new baby, or pets that can't be moved? I can't just ~~to~~ leave them to fend for themselves.

It's better <sup>to be</sup> than sorry.

131 WML

ID ~~WFL 131~~

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In-class essay (5 minutes)

**Explain the challenges of making the decision to evacuate prior to hurricane landfall,**

1) from the perspective of a local government official issuing such an order:

Government officials can't evacuate too soon or too late. If the order is made too soon, evacuation shelters may not have had sufficient time to prepare, and local businesses would lose a lot of money. Further, people might not feel the storm's threat yet, and refuse to leave for days on end - meaning more people would stay and more post-storm rescue efforts would be required. On the other hand, if the order is too late, traffic could become congested and roads flooded, leaving people stranded in cars and homes. Hospitals and ambulances might not have the manpower to move large volumes of people in a very short time, and locals might not have enough time to prepare, and thus choose to stay at home.

and 2) from your own personal perspective, following such an order:

I might have a job, and not want to be evacuated too early, since I need to go to work and make money. Further, I may have been evacuated unnecessarily last year, and feel like my government is merely crying wolf. If I am moving to a local shelter I probably will wait as long as possible, so as not to spend too much time in an uncomfortable environment. Also, I may not evacuate bcs I have a pet I don't want to move, or a person with limited mobility living in my household.

In-class essay (5 minutes)

**Explain the challenges of making the decision to evacuate prior to hurricane landfall,**

1) from the perspective of a local government official issuing such an order:

taking into consideration such things as scientific data (not wanting to cry wolf), being able to coordinate transportation + evacuation sites in an efficient way, protection of personal + business property, determining timeliness, keeping people safe, money (who's going to pay), how it will affect local businesses, how ~~profits~~ <sup>profits</sup> can best be mitigated by Army Corps of Engineers, ~~and~~ municipal boards, etc.

and 2) from your own personal perspective, following such an order:

whether you believe that evacuation order is worth following, taking needs of family, pets, etc. into account, how it affects your finances, property, etc. ~~the~~ <sup>whether</sup> your feelings about leaving.

In-class essay (5 minutes)

Explain the challenges of making the decision to evacuate prior to hurricane landfall,

1) from the perspective of a local government official issuing such an order:

The government has two choices to make: public safety and the funds necessary to support the evacuees. If a hurricane is coming, and it looks as though it is going to be destructive, local governments want to get the people to a safe place as quickly and efficiently as possible. If people are evacuated too early, they may become restless sitting in a hurricane shelter or outright ignore the evacuation order from the start. If it is too late, the roads will be congested at best and washed away at worst. There is also the concern of finding evacuation shelters - the less time people are in them, the fewer resources will be required to sustain them. Also, the government needs to retain credibility in evacuations - if they come across as being "cruel with" the people may not take future orders seriously.

and 2) from your own personal perspective, following such an order:

I want time to prepare to evacuate. Not rather not be told. I have two hours to pack my car and go. But I also don't want to sit for too long wondering whether or not I'll be evacuated.

In-class essay (5 minutes)

**Explain the challenges of making the decision to evacuate prior to hurricane landfall,**

1) from the perspective of a local government official issuing such an order:

The local government wants to save lives. They would rather have people evacuated to safe locations than sitting in their potentially dangerous houses because 1) the people are less likely to get injured or die and 2) the govt won't have to try and rescue them in the middle of the storm and put more people in danger. Upon making the evacuation decision, the govt must consider traffic, the readiness of supplies and means of transportation, scientists, local business owners, <sup>prized</sup> museum artifacts, and local police and firefighters who will have to be standing by during the storm.

and 2) from your own personal perspective, following such an order:

As a private citizen, I am most comfortable in my own house. I may have pets or young children or elderly parents living with me and would rather not move them unless I am positive that I am in extreme danger. I likely consider how bad the previous storms were upon making my decision. I also would rather <sup>ideally</sup> be away from my house for the shortest time possible.

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In-class essay (5 minutes)

**Explain the challenges of making the decision to evacuate prior to hurricane landfall,**

1) from the perspective of a local government official issuing such an order:

The challenges of making the decision to evacuate prior to hurricane landfall by a local government official is tough. The idea of "crying wolf" comes into play despite the fact that the order is issued to save lives. If the people think it's not a big deal, then they won't evacuate again and could be put more at risk. Another challenge is coordinating with other people and organizations. For example, the red cross needs to coordinate with the department of transportation to discuss traffic and roads. Businesses also need time to prepare

and 2) from your own personal perspective, following such an order:

There are a lot of personal decisions one might consider when evacuating/deciding to evacuate. I have a dog and would need to think about that as well as when I would evacuate and approximately for how long/when to leave.

to evacuate as well as prep for others to be evacuated as well (i.e. the Red Cross needs to get their shelters ready.

ID 131WVS  
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In-class essay (5 minutes)

**Explain the challenges of making the decision to evacuate prior to hurricane landfall,**

1) from the perspective of a local government official issuing such an order:

Determining the time scale of an evacuation is difficult because as an official, you want to minimize \$ cost and maximize security & safety of public w/o creating unnecessary inconveniences.

and 2) from your own personal perspective, following such an order:

People tend to be stubborn, and hope for the best. Also, in an area w/ high hurricane activity, people may experience hurricane fatigue, when they have survived so many hurricanes w/o adverse effects that they are likely to disregard the official govt. issued warnings. Also, sometimes self-sufficiency trumps government support, and depending on duration & conditions you might be more comfortable & safe @ home.



In-class essay (5 minutes)

**Explain the challenges of making the decision to evacuate prior to hurricane landfall,**

1) from the perspective of a local government official issuing such an order:

- ~~issues~~
- if we issue evac. order and the storm is not severe, people may not follow order next time — drawback to caution
- there are many stakeholders
- costs money + uses resources

The local government may be concerned that if it issues an evacuation order this time and the storm is not severe, people may not follow the orders in a more severe hurricane. There are also many stakeholders' concerns to consider. An evacuation also uses taxpayer money and many town resources. I am concerned about traffic, businesses, the fire department, and many other affected groups and primarily wish to protect lives

and 2) from your own personal perspective, following such an order:

- difficult to move my dog
- evac. center may be uncomfortable
- ~~issues~~

I may not be inclined to evacuate because it is a hassle to move my things and especially my dog. An evacuation center may also be crowded and uncomfortable. If I had an experience with another storm, I may also use this knowledge to inform my decision to evacuate.

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In-class essay (5 minutes)

**Explain the challenges of making the decision to evacuate prior to hurricane landfall,**

1) from the perspective of a local government official issuing such an order:

Government officials have a lot of responsibilities for protecting the local welfare and lives. While decisions must be made fast at times, they still require extensive planning and consideration. It would be in the best interest of the local government to receive as much feedback and information as possible from experts re: forecasting, possible property damage, high risk zones, business stakes, shelters, and citizens without means of transportation or support.

and 2) from your own personal perspective, following such an order:

Often times it is difficult to make a major decision like evacuating the house in a short period of time. Leaving the house requires difficult decisions about what to take and leave behind, where to go, who to go with, when to return, and who to contact to let them know of your departure. There are many concerns about leaving the house quickly, since hasty negligence can lead to further hazards like fire or theft. For some people, there is also an incling that (like Cpt. MacWhirr in Conrad's Typhoon), there is no way of knowing the actual danger of the hurricane unless it is experienced

In-class essay (5 minutes)

**Explain the challenges of making the decision to evacuate prior to hurricane landfall,**

1) from the perspective of a local government official issuing such an order:

- Where and how are the masses of people going to evacuate?
- Who will pay for everything?
- When should the order for evacuation be sent out as to give enough time for the people to get ready, but not too much to prevent people from becoming complacent.

It is very hard for the local government to find the correct balance between these challenges

and 2) from your own personal perspective, following such an order:

It would be hard to follow an evacuation order in the basic sense that it takes a lot of work and energy to relocate yourself. Also ~~th~~ I am being asked to choose what objects in my house are most valuable to me. I can only bring a few things w/ me. ~~to leave~~ ~~At~~ Leaving my home, where I have grown up would serve as another difficulty.

In-class essay (5 minutes)

**Explain the challenges of making the decision to evacuate prior to hurricane landfall,**

1) from the perspective of a local government official issuing such an order:

You have to convey a sense of urgency to the people without causing a panic. Once that evacuation order is sent out, you want to make sure as many people as possible follow the orders, for the safety of the city. You need to make sure that everyone in the city supports your decision, so it doesn't hurt you in the long-run.

and 2) from your own personal perspective, following such an order:

Deciding the proper preparation that is needed to be ready to go at any moment. Making sure that valuables such as cars, pets or electronics are out of harm's way.