



Oil Shockwave?

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Topic: [Supply/Production](#)

We all seem to have differing opinions as to how, or if, the fallout from Katrina is related to Peak Oil. I think I'm of the opinion that it's not related to the peaking of supply per se, but the way in which we deal with this situation has some very real ramifications for how this country will deal with future—and not temporary—supply disruptions.

A [diarist at Daily Kos](#) compares the situation after Katrina to the [Oil Shockwave](#) simulation that she witnessed in Torrence, CA a couple of weeks ago. She quickly moves into explaining why this situation should be a push for Americans to seek alternative forms of energy for transportation, but it's kind of an interesting read.

You may recall that Oil Shockwave is a simulation that has taken place two times: once in Washington DC in June, and once in [California in August](#). In an article called "[Outcome Grim at Oil War Game](#)", the Washington Post described the cause of the oil shocks in the simulation:

The exercise began with ethnic unrest in Nigeria, leading to the collapse of the oil industry in that west African nation. Then al Qaeda launched crippling attacks on key energy facilities in Valdez, Alaska, and Saudi Arabia.

In the timeline of the simulation, gas prices started at \$58/barrel (mid-December), then went to \$80 at news of political unrest in Nigeria (December 14), to \$120 when coordinated explosions in Saudi Arabia and Alaska forced a natural gas plant and the Trans-Alaska pipeline to close and to \$160 when violence in Saudi Arabia forced foreign workers to leave the country.

What will it take? Will Katrina be enough to make the situation look something like Oil Shockwave? Perhaps more importantly, will it make the government worried enough to [follow the advice](#) of the [Oil Shockwave participants](#)?

The participants concluded almost unanimously that they must press the president to invest quickly in promising technologies to reduce dependence on overseas oil, such as hybrid cars powered by gasoline and plug-in electricity; and cars that run on fuels derived from prairie grasses, animal waste and other products. They all agreed these projects would take years to yield any benefit but should not wait for the kind of crisis they were dramatizing.

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