



Dennis, Katrina and Rita - a diary as they happened

Posted by [Heading Out](#) on September 1, 2008 - 8:00am

Topic: [Sociology/Psychology](#)

Tags: [hurricane damage](#), [hurricane dennis](#), [hurricane gustav](#), [hurricane katrina](#), [hurricane rita](#), [loop](#), [the oil storm](#) [[list all tags](#)]

One of the benefits of running this site as long as we have is that it can now act as a diary through which, should you wish, you can go back and see how the story unfolded for the three hurricanes that created so much devastation in 2005.

We did not do a lot of reporting on [Dennis](#) which came to land in Florida on July 10th, 2005. Though it was this hurricane, the first of the three, that damaged the [Thunder Horse](#) drilling platform that has only just been brought back on site, just in time to meet Gustav.

There was a note on the impending threat on [July 9](#) but Prof G hadn't yet started putting together the resources that he did with Katrina and Rita. However there was a precursor of coming problems when in the post showing [Thunder Horse damage](#) it was noted that nine of the rigs damaged by Ivan the year before had not yet been repaired.

Prof G began Katrina coverage on [August 26th](#) and you can follow through the successive posts as the risk, and then the damage was described in successive posts. There had been, earlier that summer, a Fox TV movie called "The Oil Storm" in which a hurricane took out [The LOOP](#) the offshore oil port, and that was predicted to raise prices from \$50 to \$70 a barrel. What a difference three years make!

One problem that arose at the time was with the supplies of fuel into South Florida, which got its fuel by water from NOLA, and which for a while ran short. It is interesting to note the optimism that is quoted from the refinery folk about how soon they thought the refineries would be back on line. There were national gas shortages [by August 31](#). As has since developed there is a lot more information in the comments than just in the original posts.

Rita first appears in a [comment](#) on September 18, with the main posts starting on [September 19th](#), and the first assessment of damage on [Sept 24](#) just after she came ashore.

All of these have been "teachable" moments. Just as I presume this one will be as well.



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