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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Hurricane Information and Educational Tools Available**

ALEXANDRIA, VA - The American Geological Institute (AGI), as an active member of the Congressional Hazards Caucus Coalition, helps to provide resources on the mitigation and response to natural hazards. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, AGI would like to remind the public of the availability of information and educational tools related to understanding the causes and effects of hurricanes as well as preparing for and responding these events. For the latest news on the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, please see AGI's newsmagazine, *Geotimes*' Web Extra online at [www.geotimes.org](http://www.geotimes.org)

The Congressional Hazards Caucus web site ([www.hazardscaucus.org](http://www.hazardscaucus.org)) hosts a number of pertinent documents and resources regarding natural hazards like Hurricane Katrina. In particular, three tools of interest are:

**-Hurricane Fact Sheet:** This two-page introduction to hurricanes defines the phenomenon of tropical cyclones and their after effects, provides tips on developing a family plan to stay safe during and after the storms, and provides a list of helpful resources for more information.

**-Hurricane Preparedness Kit:** The International Code Council (ICC) has compiled a 70-page document on hurricane preparedness and response collected from government and non-government organizations. The complete kit, which contains information from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Red Cross, and others, is available through the Hazards Caucus web site or directly from the ICC web site at <http://www.iccsafe.org/government/pdf/HurricaneKit.pdf>.

**-Hurricane Visualizations Educational Tool:** The Teaching Geoscience by Visualizations web page contains a link to Hurricane Visualizations, and a large collection of links to hurricane models, photos, videos and maps. New data on Hurricane Katrina is available, as well as historical data on past storms. To view the visualizations, follow the link from the Hazards Caucus website.

The Hazards Caucus web site also offers links to key federal agencies and organizations that work on natural hazards, including FEMA, the National Weather Service (NWS), and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

For Earth Science Week 2004, AGI's Education department prepared a kit which provides information on hurricanes. The kit contains a hurricane tracking activity designed for K-12 students, tracking information from NASA, and a *National Geographic* map of hurricane prone regions in North America. Past articles concerning this year's hurricane predictions from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) can be found in the *Geotimes* online archive at <http://www.geotimes.org/archives2/index.html>.

Although Hurricane Katrina has dissipated over land, the threat is not over, and more hurricanes may reach landfall as the Atlantic hurricane season historically peaks in September. We encourage everyone living or visiting hurricane-prone regions to use the resources on hurricanes that are freely accessible through the Hazards Caucus website.

For more information on the Congressional Hazards Caucus Coalition, contact Linda Rowan, Director of AGI's Government Affairs Program, at [rowan@agiweb.org](mailto:rowan@agiweb.org).

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The American Geological Institute is a nonprofit federation of 43 scientific and professional associations that represent more than 120,000 geologists, geophysicists, and other earth scientists. Founded in 1948, AGI provides information services to geoscientists, serves as a voice of shared interests in our profession, plays a major role in strengthening geoscience education, and strives to increase public awareness of the vital role the geosciences play in society's use of resources and interaction with the environment. More information about AGI can be found at <http://www.agiweb.org>.