

News from the hurricane area in the southern US – from Stephanie Holcombe

Hello everyone!

I recently received an email from Sky Bivens, one of the Scholars that helped to initiate the Hurricane Relief fund for the District. She is now back at home and recently got a first-hand glimpse of the devastation. As all of the disasters are happening across the world, it's easy to let my attention be jerked from one to another, without revisiting the aftermath everyone must face in the 'old' disaster. For me, at least, this email just really took me to the reality of people rebuilding their lives...which could take ages! Cheers, Stephanie

I went to New Orleans this weekend to help my friend Gretchen and her friend move out of town. They're part of the mass exodus. New Orleans looked a mess. I drove down I-10 to the river. Saw the dome and the cemeteries. About 80% of the houses in Kenner and Metairie had tarps on them. Storage complexes had their walls peeled off so you could see people's stuff in there. And I've never seen so many fridges!! Every house and apartment complex had the fridge on the street. Piles and piles of rubble by them too. The city has fired so many workers; I don't know who will clean it all up. I went down Magazine, St. Charles and Carrollton. It was weird for sure. The news has been uplifting lately, though. Many of those famous restaurants and institutions are reopening. And even though it looked so bad, the city was surprisingly busy. I hope people go back, but we did see many trailers and moving trucks.

An example of what Sky saw on her travels through New Orleans:



Magazine Street



On Carolton next to Brocato's

Source: Pics taken on 28 October 2005 by Todd Price and found on the [**flickr**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/toddp/) website.