



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2005

Got Levees?

by Michael in New York on [9/15/2005 03:13:00 PM](#)

The right wants to argue that those levees in New Orleans were weak because the city is mired in corruption and they were just too dumb to insist on getting them fixed and even if we poured in money, it would have been wasted anyway. Because obviously no other city would be stupid enough to ignore such an obvious danger.

Oops. **Seems levees are weak and crumbling all over the country.**

A prime potential trouble spot is here in **Northern California, where hundreds of thousands of people live on low-lying land protected by levees. Levee networks are also prominent across the Gulf Coast, in Florida and in heavily populated areas of the Midwest along the Mississippi and Missouri rivers....**

An earthquake or prolonged, heavy storms could cause levees to rupture near urban areas, particularly around Sacramento. Houses in a booming residential area north of the city could be inundated with up to 20 feet of water.

Widespread levee breaks also could imperil the water supply for 22 million Californians....

A levee break in dry, sunny weather in June 2004 flooded 12,000 acres of farmland and caused \$150 million in damage. The cause, like the cause of most levee breaches, is unknown because rushing water washed away the evidence.

In 1997, more than 50 California levees broke on rain-choked rivers and killed eight people, forced the evacuation of 100,000 and damaged or destroyed 24,000 homes.

Levees have failed more than 140 times in the past century....

Few levees anywhere in the nation are built to more than a 100-year standard — capable of withstanding a flood so bad that its probability of occurring is once in a 100 years. The report urged a far more expensive 500-year standard for urban areas. In the Netherlands, levees along the Rhine River are built to a 1,250-year standard.

Now who's dumb? Nothing to investigate here. Keep moving.



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Daily Kos

Open Thread and Diary Rescue - *Tonight's crew of Rescue Rangers were vcmv02, grog, dopper0189, shayera, and joyful. In the meantime, dadanation looked editorial. Oh yeah, a big shout ...
29 minutes ago

Think Progress

Report: Cheney wanted to illegally deploy American troops in U.S. cities. - The New York Times reports that in 2002, Vice President Cheney and his administration allies urged President Bush to deploy American troops into the suburb...
48 minutes ago

Crooks and Liars

Open Thread - Andy K here blogging about Andy Kaufman (no relation), who's on the same stage with Wolfman Jack? Whelp, there goes that theory. h/t to Ben Folds (yes, ...
1 hour ago

Firedoglake







Late Night: MSNBC - Will Any Republican Denounce Rush Limbaugh? - I sure do remember a time when the GOP made Barack Obama denounce Jeremiah Wright, insisting that if he didn't it was an explicit endorsement of anything W...
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AMERICAblog Gay


E. Lynn Harris Dies - NYT: E. Lynn Harris, the best-selling author of novels that addressed questions of identity and sexuality among black men, has died, his publicist told Th...
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