



## CONFERENCE

### Severe Storms – Impact & Disaster Response in Gulf Coast Communities

March 15 & 16, 2006

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**Conference Theme** This conference will focus on the technical, emergency response, social, and economic issues associated with tropical storms and hurricanes in Gulf Coast communities. The conference will be broad in scope and inter-disciplinary in coverage and will assemble speakers from the public, private and academic sectors. A session on this year's major hurricanes will be included.

Conference participants will address, among other questions;

- ❑ How well are we equipped to predict severe storms and hurricanes and the inland flooding which often accompanies them?
- ❑ What engineering and design management concepts have proven effective in urban watershed management? How much protection is enough and how willing is the public to pay for it?
- ❑ What are the "at risk" populations and facilities along the Gulf Coast and how might the risks they face be reduced?
- ❑ Can we measure or otherwise evaluate the adequacy of our disaster response efforts, recognizing that each disaster event will invariably present challenges unique to it?
- ❑ How has the innovative use of advanced technology enhanced our planning efforts, and what might be done to make those tools even more effective?

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## Conference Organizers

**Dr. Philip B. Bedient** is a Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Rice University, and holds the Herman Brown Chair in Engineering. He has been studying urban hydrology for the past 30 years, including major floodplain studies, stormwater studies, water quality studies, and radar-based flood alert systems for Texas. Dr. Bedient is lead author of a textbook entitled "Hydrology and Floodplain Analysis", used in over 70 universities.

**Dr. Baxter E. Vieux** is a Professor of Civil Engineering and Environmental Science at University of Oklahoma. As Director of the Center for Natural Hazard and Disaster Research, he oversees research efforts to mitigate severe weather impacts such as flooding. He is an expert in the development of engineering hydrologic applications using NEXRAD radar. His active research programs focus on distributed-parameter hydrologic modeling and advanced hydrologic applications of NEXRAD weather radar prototyped at the National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL), Norman OK.

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### Preliminary Conference Speakers Include:

- The Honorable Mayor of the City of Houston, Bill White (invited)
- Dr. Philip Bedient, Herman Brown Professor of Engineering, Civil & Environmental Engineering, Rice University.
- Dr. Baxter Vieux, Presidential Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering, University of Oklahoma
- Dr. David Butler, Professor in Water Engineering, Imperial College, London, UK.
- Dr. Ivor van Heerden, Deputy Director, LSU Hurricane Center
- Dr. Stephen Klineberg, Professor of Sociology, Rice University.
- Dr. Bob Stein, Dean of Social Sciences and Lena Gohlman Fox Professor of Political Science, Rice University
- Dr. Francisco Olivera, Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, Texas A&M
- Burton Johnson, Harris County Flood Control District
- Jim Thompson, President, Turner Collie & Braden
- Andy Yung, Vice President, Chief Hydrologist, Dodson & Associates
- Charles Penland, Principal/Executive Director, WP Moore

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## Preliminary Schedule – General Conference

Panels	Date	Topic
Panel 1	March 15 am	New Technologies (GIS, RADAR Rainfall, LiDAR)
Panel 2	March 15 am	Risk Assessment (Prediction, TSARP, Storm Surge, Hurricanes Katrina & Rita)
Panel 3	March 15 pm	Risk Management Tools (Flood Control, Flood Warning, Evacuation Schemes)
Panel 4	March 15 pm	Social and Economic Issues
Panel 5	March 16 am	Severe Storms and Global Warming
Panel 6	March 16 am	Severe Storms in the UK (Challenge & Response)
Panel 7	March 16 pm	Past Lessons & Future Challenges
<b>GENERAL CONFERENCE ADJOURNS AT 3:30pm ON MARCH 16</b>		

Note: Lunch is provided on March 15 only. Refreshments will be provided during scheduled breaks.

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## Conference Costs & Logistics

### Cost

- General Conference, March 15 – March 16
  - \$200/person
- General Conference & Continuing Education on March 17
  - \$150/person
  - \$50/course

### Location

- McMurtry Auditorium in Duncan Hall
- Rice University, 6100 Main St, Houston, Texas
- A map of the campus is available at [www.rice.edu/maps](http://www.rice.edu/maps)