

'OUR TSUNAMI'

At least 50 die in a storm as fearsome as Camille



MARK WALLHEISER Reuters

David Diaz looks over the area where he and his brother used to live in the Sadler Apartments on the waterfront in Biloxi. A pile of rubble and empty foundations are all that's left of the 30 or more apartments and over 100 of the St. Charles Condominiums. Hurricane Katrina completely devastated Biloxi and much of the Gulf Coast of Mississippi and Louisiana.

By ANITA LEE, DON HAMMACK,
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Sun Herald

BILOXI — Hurricane Katrina devastated South Mississippi on Monday with a force not seen since Camille 36 years ago, sweeping aside multimillion-dollar casinos, burying the beach highway and killing at least 50 people in Harrison County.

"This," said Biloxi Mayor A.J. Holloway, "is our tsunami."

At least 50 people are confirmed dead in Gulfport and Biloxi.

Katrina raged ashore in Mississippi at dawn and terrorized the Coast until winds subsided after 3 p.m., leaving massive damage in her wake. Monday night, communications were down and transportation systems demolished. Katrina also crippled medical services.

Beleaguered emergency personnel awaited reinforcements from the federal government and other states to shore up assistance.

"We are still in the search-and-rescue mode," Holloway said. It will be days before the costs of Katrina, in lives and property, are known.

Katrina's tidal surge swept away bridges that had linked the three Coast counties.

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The McDonald's in front of Edgewater Mall on U.S. 90 in Biloxi is gutted. The mall, and the adjacent Edgewater Village Shopping Center, suffered damage to a number of businesses as Hurricane Katrina passed through.

Mark Wallheiser/Reuters

Need help reaching a loved one?

To track relatives and loved ones, leave a message at 1-866-453-1925. The Sun Herald will publish these messages in the days to come. The first installment of these messages appears on Page 2.

To our readers

Today's Sun Herald is being delivered in the afternoon because of Hurricane Katrina.

A team of Sun Herald staffers traveled to Columbus, Ga., to assemble and print today's paper. The papers were then transported back to South Mississippi.

The Sun Herald will resume a normal delivery schedule as quickly as it can.

THE EDITORS

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