

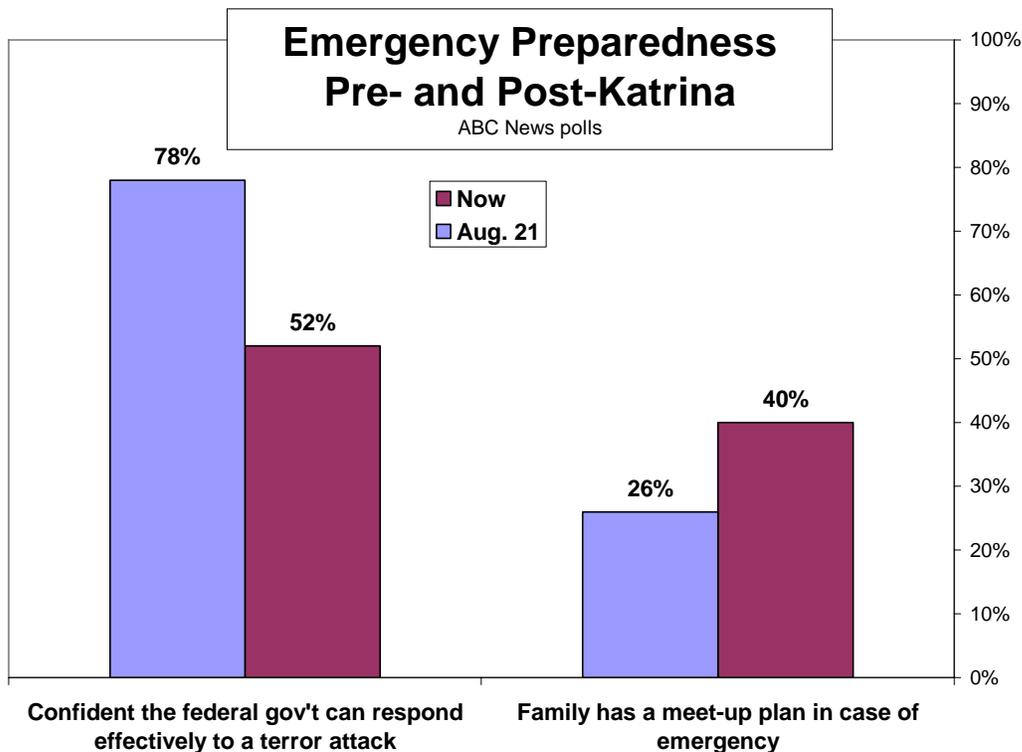
Confidence in Anti-Terror Response Drops Sharply After Hurricane Katrina

Confidence in the federal government’s ability to respond to a terrorist attack using nuclear or radioactive materials has fallen sharply since Hurricane Katrina, another sign of eroding trust in the hurricane’s aftermath.

At the same time, there’s a positive post-Katrina development: Many more Americans, albeit still a minority, now have their own meet-up plan should an emergency occur.

Overall, 52 percent in this ABC News poll do express confidence in the government’s ability to respond effectively to a nuclear or radiological terrorist attack – but that’s fallen from 78 percent in late August, likely a result of the troubled hurricane response.

In terms of their own preparation, 40 percent now say they have a plan for how family members will communicate, or where to meet, if there’s a serious emergency. That’s jumped from 26 percent in August. Katrina again seems a likely factor.



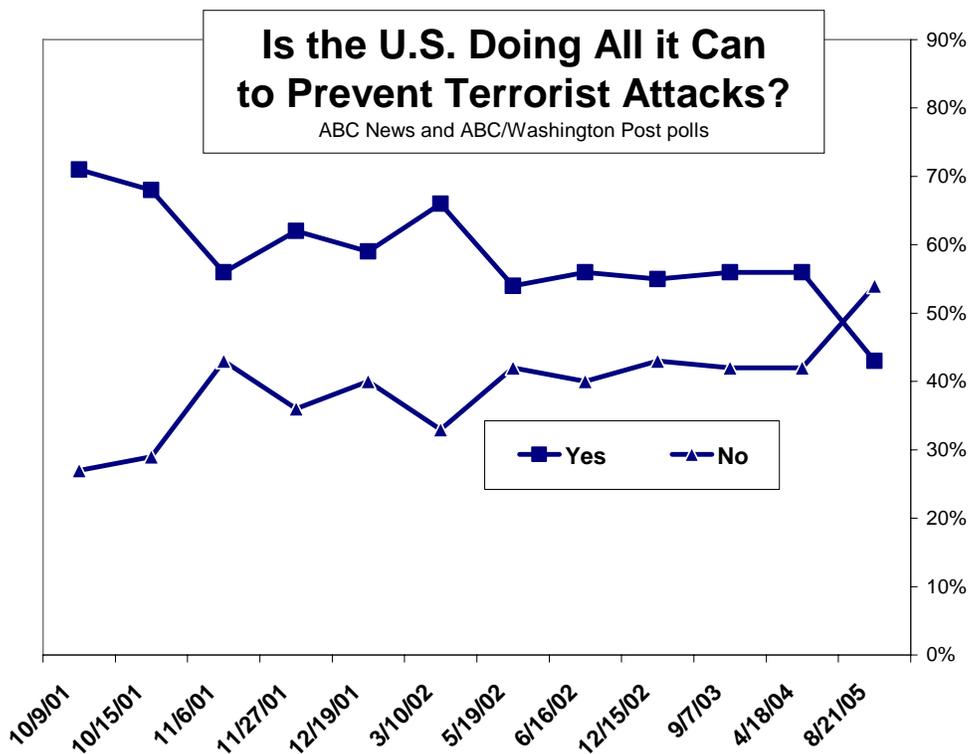
In another result relevant to the recent hurricanes, 55 percent think the area where they live could be evacuated in a timely fashion in the event of a terrorist attack or natural disaster. But 42 percent are not confident that could happen – and just two in 10 are “very” confident their area could be evacuated rapidly.

This poll, including a detailed look at Americans’ preparedness and concerns about possible terrorist attacks, supports the ABC News series, “Loose Nukes on Main Street: The New Terror Threat,” airing Sunday, Oct. 9 to Friday, Oct. 14. The series focuses on the security of radiological materials – or the lack thereof. The bulk of this survey was conducted in August, with some questions repeated after the recent hurricanes.

SECURITY – Terrorism concerns overall are up from where they’ve been. Just under half, 49 percent, say the country is safer from terrorism than it was before Sept. 11, 2001, well down from its 2003 and 2004 levels. And 41 percent express confidence in the government’s ability to prevent further attacks, a post-9/11 low (albeit barely).

If a terrorist attack using nuclear or radiological materials occurred in their area, fewer than three in 10 feel they’d know what to do. Among the rest, half say they wouldn’t even know where to turn for information. And in such an attack, or one using chemical or biological weapons, nearly three-quarters think there’d be panic.

Public views seem to reflect a broad sense that “it won’t happen to me.” While two-thirds are worried about more major terrorist attacks, half as many are worried that they personally may be a victim, and just eight percent are worried “a great deal” about it.



While those worries have been generally steady since shortly after the 9/11 attacks, confidence in the government's anti-terrorism efforts is down. In late August, even before the troubled Katrina response, 54 percent said the federal government should do more than it's currently doing to prevent another terrorist attack – a majority for the first time since 9/11.

Post-Katrina attitudes were critical of the government's disaster response, helping to push George W. Bush's job approval rating to a career low.

LOOSE NUKES – The survey finds particular concern about attacks unlike that on 9/11: While seven in 10 think the United States is doing enough to prevent airline hijackings, fewer than half think enough's being done to prevent car or suicide bombs, or to prevent terrorists from obtaining nuclear bomb materials or making a so-called "dirty bomb." And far fewer are very confident that nuclear materials here and abroad are being adequately protected.

Considering a range of nuclear materials, Americans are most confident that U.S. nuclear weapons are well-protected from terrorists. But while eight in 10 are confident that these are adequately kept away from terrorists, fewer, four in 10, are very confident of it.

Only a quarter are very confident that nuclear power plants are well-protected, and fewer still are very confident that research reactors and nuclear waste in transit are safe. Americans are least confident that nuclear materials in other countries, including former Soviet weapons, are being adequately protected from terrorists.

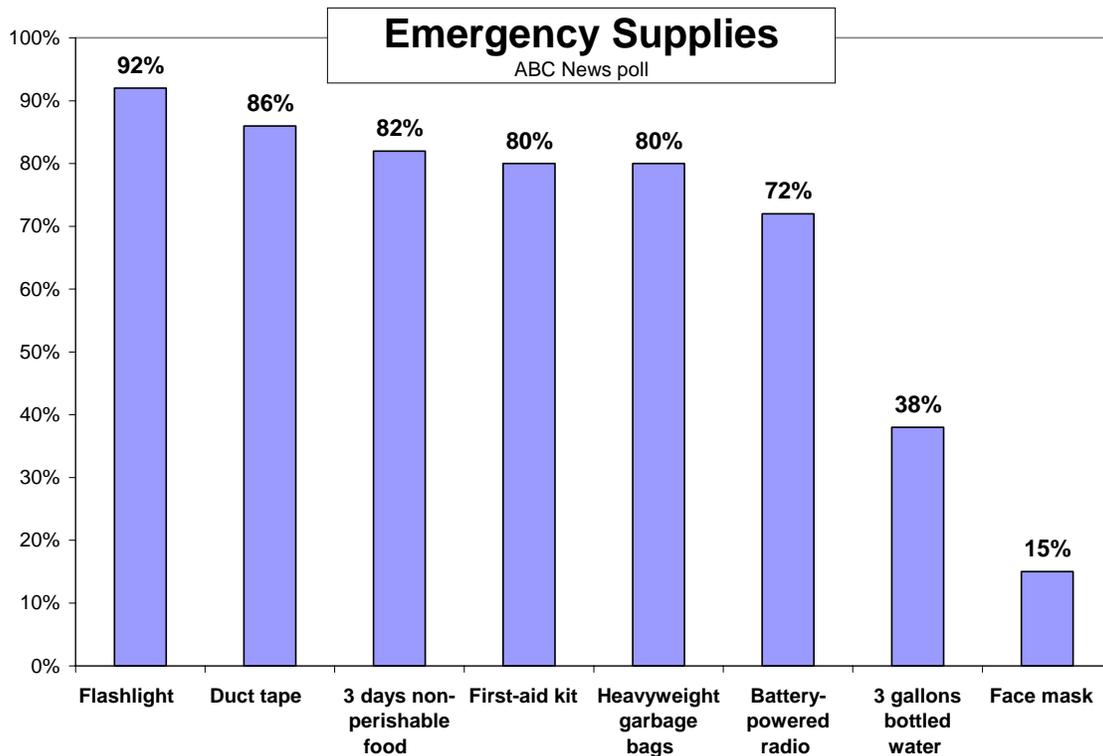
	Secure?	
	Confident	"Very confident"
U.S. nuclear weapons	80%	39%
U.S. nuclear power plants	72	25
University research reactors	61	13
Used nuclear fuel as it's being transported	60	14
Lower-level radioactive med./industrial waste	57	13
Nuclear reactors/nuclear fuel outside the U.S.	45	8
Nuclear weapons in the former Soviet Union	42	9

READINESS – About half of Americans, 53 percent, feel they're prepared for a terrorist attack, with a significant difference between women (44 percent feel prepared) and men (62 percent). Some of that could be wishful thinking: Just about one in 10 say they're "very prepared," and indeed most lack some recommended preparedness items, particularly a supply of bottled water and face masks.

Among the recommendations listed at ready.gov, the Department of Homeland Security's website, are eight supplies to have on hand in case of a terrorist attack – a first aid kit, three gallons of drinking water and three days' worth of non-perishable food per person, a battery-powered radio, flashlight, face mask, heavyweight plastic bags and duct tape.

Some of those are ubiquitous: Almost everyone has a flashlight with spare batteries at home, nearly nine in 10 have duct tape and at least eight in 10 have food supplies, heavy garbage bags and first-aid kits. But fewer, about four in 10, have the recommended amount of bottled water, and just 15 percent have face masks at the ready. (Ready.gov notes that two to three layers of a cotton t-shirt, handkerchief or towel can be used in place of a face mask.)

All told, just five percent of Americans have all eight of these items on hand. Excluding face masks (since there's an alternative available), it's 21 percent. Excluding face masks and bottled water, it's 43 percent – still less than half the public.



THWARTING ATTACKS – Views of the government's anti-terrorism efforts have weakened across the political spectrum, with Democrats, independents and Republicans alike more likely to say the country's less safe. Democrats are 23 points less likely to say the country is safer now than they were at the beginning of 2004, compared to a still-steep 18-point drop among independents and a nine-point drop among Republicans.

But belief that the United States is doing all it can to prevent further terrorist attacks is down most steeply among Republicans (-18 points), followed by independents (-13). It's fallen by eight points among Democrats, who nonetheless are still the most likely to say the country should be doing more.

U.S. safer				U.S. doing			
from terror				all it can			
All	Dem	Rep	Ind	All	Dem	Rep	Ind

8/05	49%	32	75	47	43%	36	55	42
2004		67	55	84	65	56	44	73

WHAT IF – While confidence in the federal government’s ability to respond effectively to a nuclear or radiological attack is down steeply (with a very sharp partisan difference), faith in local entities has held steadier since Katrina (with much less partisanship). Seventy percent are confident in the ability of their local hospitals and health care officials to respond to this kind of attack; it was 76 percent in August. And 59 percent are confident in their local government and police, compared to 66 percent in August. Far fewer, however, are “very” confident of an effective response from any of these.

An effective response to this type of an attack may be crucial, since nearly three-quarters of Americans say most people they know would panic if a “dirty bomb” went off. Other kinds of attacks would also engender fear: Three-quarters think that panic would ensue in the case of a local chemical or biological attack; fewer but still a majority, 52 percent, say people would panic if a car bomb or suicide bomber struck in their area.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News poll was conducted by telephone Aug. 18-21, 2005, among a random national sample of 1,002 adults, with sampling, data collection and tabulation by TNS Intersearch of Horsham, Pa., with some questions repeated in telephone interviews Sept. 28-Oct. 2, 2005, among a random national sample of 1,014 adults, by ICR-International Communications Research of Media, Pa. Results have a three-point error margin.

Analysis by Jon Cohen and Gary Langer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com at <http://abcnews.com/pollvault.html>.

Media contact: Cathie Levine, (212) 456-4934.

Full results follow (*= less than 0.5 percent).

1. Compared to before September 11, 2001, do you think the country today is safer from terrorism or less safe from terrorism? IF SAFER: Would you say the country is much safer or somewhat safer?

	-----Safer-----			Less	No diff.	No
	NET	Much	Somewhat	safe	(vol.)	opin.
8/21/05	49	14	35	38	11	2
10/3/04 LV	62	29	33	29	7	2
9/26/04 RV	59	24	35	34	5	2
9/8/04 RV	64	26	38	28	5	3
8/29/04 RV	60	24	36	31	7	2
1/18/04	67	28	39	24	8	1
9/7/03	67	24	42	27	4	2

2. Do you think the United States is doing all it reasonably can do to try to prevent further terrorist attacks, or do you think it should do more?

US doing	US should	No
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	all it can	do more	opin.
8/21/05	43	54	2
4/18/04	56	42	1
9/7/03	56	42	2
12/15/02	55	43	2
6/16/02	56	40	4
5/19/02	54	42	4
3/10/02	66	33	1
12/19/01	59	40	1
11/27/01	62	36	1
11/6/01	56	43	2
10/15/01	68	29	3
10/9/01	71	27	2

3. How concerned are you about the possibility there will be more major terrorist attacks in the United States - is that something that worries you a great deal, somewhat, not too much or not at all?

	-----Concerned-----			-----Not concerned-----			No opin.
	NET	Grt.deal	Somewhat	NET	Not much	At all	
8/21/05	66	24	42	33	23	10	1
7/21/05	73	30	43	27	17	10	*
9/8/04 RV	73	25	47	27	20	7	1
9/7/03	71	25	46	29	20	9	*
3/20/03	76	29	47	24	16	8	1
2/16/03	72	27	45	27	18	9	1
9/8/02	74	22	52	26	19	7	0
7/15/02	73	29	44	27	20	7	*
4/21/02	73	30	43	26	18	9	*
3/10/02	70	23	47	30	21	9	1
12/19/01	70	27	43	29	22	8	1
10/15/01	77	35	43	23	14	9	0
10/9/01	82	36	46	18	12	6	*
10/7/01	81	41	40	18	13	4	1
9/27/01*	83	43	39	17	12	5	*
9/11/01	87	49	38	12	7	4	1
6/13/97	62	21	41	38	24	14	*
6/2/97	63	22	41	37	28	9	*
8/5/96	74	31	43	26	18	8	*
4/20/95	78	38	40	21	16	5	1

*9/27/01 and previous: "How concerned are you about the possibility there will be more major terrorist attacks in this country."

4. How concerned are you about the chance that you personally might be the victim of a terrorist attack - does that worry you a great deal, somewhat, not too much or not at all?

	-----Concerned-----			-----Not concerned-----			No opin.
	NET	Grt.deal	Somewhat	NET	Not much	At all	
8/21/05	32	8	24	67	35	32	*
7/21/05	31	9	22	68	39	29	*
9/8/04 RV	33	8	24	67	36	32	*
9/7/03	35	10	24	65	34	31	*
2/16/03	34	10	23	65	37	28	2
9/8/02	32	7	25	68	35	33	*
11/6/01	35	10	25	64	33	31	*

5. How much confidence do you have in the ability of the U.S. government to prevent further terrorist attacks against Americans in this country: a great deal, a good amount, only a fair amount or none at all?

	-----Confident-----			-----Not confident-----			No opin.
	NET	Grt.deal	Good amt.	NET	Fair amt.	None	
9/11/05	41	14	27	59	41	18	*
8/21/05	42	14	28	57	43	15	*
9/8/04 RV	52	16	35	47	39	8	1
9/7/03	45	14	31	55	48	7	1
9/8/02	50	12	38	49	43	6	*
7/15/02	46	13	33	54	45	9	*
6/9/02	44	14	30	55	44	11	*
5/19/02	46	17	29	52	42	10	2
3/10/02	55	18	38	44	39	5	*
1/27/02	57	18	40	42	37	6	1
11/27/01	63	24	39	36	32	5	1
11/6/01	52	17	35	47	40	7	1
9/11/01	66	35	31	32	30	2	1
6/2/97	35	10	26	62	52	10	3
8/5/96	35	12	23	65	49	16	*
5/14/95	36	12	24	63	51	12	1
4/20/95	37	13	24	62	51	11	1
6/28/93	59	22	37	41	32	8	1
4/3/89	46	16	30	54	38	16	*

6. How prepared do you personally feel you and your family are in case of a terrorist attack in the area where you live - very prepared, somewhat prepared, not so prepared or not prepared at all?

	-----Prepared-----			-----Not prepared-----			No opin.
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	At all	
10/2/05	53	12	40	46	16	30	2
8/21/05	49	10	38	51	22	28	1

7. Some people store emergency supplies in their homes and some do not. For each item I name, please tell me if you happen to have that in your home, or not...

8/21/05 - Summary Table

	Yes	No	No opin.
a. First-aid kit	80	20	0
b. Three gallons of bottled water for each person in your household	38	62	*
c. Battery-powered radio with spare batteries	72	28	*
d. Flashlight with spare batteries	92	8	0
e. Three-day supply of non-perishable food	82	18	*
f. Face mask that covers the nose and mouth for each person in your household	15	85	*
g. Heavyweight plastic garbage bags or plastic sheeting	80	19	*
h. Duct tape	86	14	*

8. How about a plan for how members of your household will communicate or where you'll meet up in case of a serious emergency - do you happen to have that kind of plan, or not?

	Yes	No	Live alone (vol.)	No opin.
10/2/05	40	58	2	*
8/21/05	26	70	4	*

9. For each of these, how do you think most people you know would react if it happened in their area? If a terrorist attack using (ITEM) happened in their area, would most people you know be panicked, alarmed but not panicked, concerned but not alarmed, or not concerned?

8/21/05 - Summary Table

- a. a car bomb or suicide bomber
- b. a so called "dirty bomb" combining conventional explosives with radioactive material
- c. chemical or biological weapons

	---Panic/Alarmed---			---Not alarmed---			Depends (vol.)	No op.
	NET	Pan.	Alarm.	NET	Conc.	Not		
a. car bomb/suicide	85	52	32	15	12	2	*	1
b. dirty bomb	90	73	17	9	7	2	1	1
c. chem/bio weapons	92	74	18	7	6	1	*	1

10. Thinking specifically of a terrorist attack using a nuclear bomb or a so-called dirty bomb, would you know what to do if that kind of attack happened in the area where you live, or not?

	Yes	No	No opin.
8/21/05	28	71	1

11. (ASKED IF NO, Q10) Do you feel you'd know where to turn for information on what to do, or not?

	Yes	No	No opin.
8/21/05	50	50	*

12. For each situation I name, please tell me if you think the United States is or is not doing enough to try to prevent it...

8/21/05 - Summary Table

	Doing enough	Not doing enough	No opin.
a. Airline hijackings	69	30	1
b. Car bombs or suicide bombers	45	51	4
c. Terrorists obtaining a nuclear bomb or the materials to build one	47	50	3
d. Terrorists making a so called "dirty bomb" combining conventional explosives with radioactive material	46	50	4

13. Overall, how confident are you that nuclear and other radiological materials in the United States are being adequately protected so they won't fall into the hands of terrorists - very confident, somewhat confident, not so confident or not confident at all?

	-----Confident-----			----Not confident----			Already have them (vol.)	No op.
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	At all		
8/21/05	71	19	52	28	16	12	0	1

14. Now I'll name a few specific types of nuclear or radiological materials. For each one, please tell me how confident you are that it's being adequately protected against terrorists - very confident, somewhat confident, not so confident or not confident at all...

8/21/05 - Summary Table

	----Confident---			---Not confident---			No op.
	NET	Very	Smwt.	NET	Not so	At all	
a. Nuclear power plants in the United States	72	25	47	26	16	10	1
b. Small nuclear reactors used for research purposes at universities around the country	61	13	48	36	22	14	3
c. Used nuclear fuel as it's being transported to storage sites	60	14	46	38	24	14	2
d. Lower-level radioactive material such in medical or industrial waste as it's transported to storage sites	57	13	44	41	25	17	2
e. Nuclear weapons in the former Soviet Union	42	9	33	55	29	26	3
f. Nuclear reactors or used nuclear fuel outside the United States	45	8	37	52	31	21	3
g. U.S. nuclear weapons	80	39	41	19	12	8	1

15. For each group I name, please tell me how confident you are in its ability to respond effectively to a terrorist attack using nuclear or radioactive materials - very confident, somewhat confident, not so confident or not confident at all...

10/2/05 - Summary Table

	-----Confident---			----Not confident----			No op.
	NET	Very	Smwt.	NET	Not so	At all	
a. The federal government	52	16	36	46	22	24	1
b. Your local government and police	59	14	45	40	20	20	2
c. Your local hospitals and health agencies	70	25	45	28	16	12	2

Trend:

a. The federal government

	-----Confident-----			-----Not confident-----			No op.
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all	
10/2/05	52	16	36	46	22	24	1
8/21/05	78	29	49	21	12	9	1

b. Your local government and police

	-----Confident-----			-----Not confident-----			No op.
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all	
10/2/05	59	14	45	40	20	20	2
8/21/05	66	18	48	34	21	13	*

c. Your local hospitals and health agencies

	-----Confident-----			-----Not confident-----			No op.
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all	

10/2/05	70	25	45	28	16	12	2
8/21/05	76	26	51	23	15	8	1

16. How confident are you that the area where you live could be evacuated in a timely fashion in case of a terrorist attack or natural disaster - very confident, somewhat confident, no so confident or not confident at all?

	-----Confident-----			-----Not confident-----			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all	op.
10/2/05	55	19	37	42	24	18	2

END