

ne News Page

News Release

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Brave or foolhardy? Forty percent of US citizens not scared of hurricanes

The summer and autumn means it's Hurricane Season. The latest big storm to threaten our coasts is Hurricane Igor, a Category 4 hurricane which is currently lashing Bermuda.

Five years ago, Hurricane Katrina caused America's most expensive natural disaster, but despite this, many US citizens claim to have no fear of these powerful storms, finds a new survey.

A poll of 500 US users of news navigator www.OneNewsPage.com reveals that 40% claim not to be scared of hurricanes. In contrast, 425 respondents, or 85%, of the survey group were afraid of earthquakes.

The findings are significant. Out of the poll sample, almost half (48%) had witnessed a hurricane personally.

That said, if it came to evacuating or sitting out a hurricane, post-Katrina over three quarters (77.8%) said they would evacuate.

When asked if the US government had learnt lessons from Katrina, only 17% thought it had. The large majority (73%) thought it hadn't.

And almost as many people (71%) ascribed perceived extreme weather conditions to global warming.

In fact, almost the same number (70.8%) wanted the US government to spend more on climate research.

Dr Marc Pinter-Krainer, CEO of One News Page, says:

"In the wake of the 5th anniversary of Katrina, it's quite surprising how many people

claimed not to fear hurricanes. Maybe it's because most people said that they would evacuate the scene while the storm rages. One thing is clear, the US public would support more research into climate change and they don't think the government has learnt all the lessons of Katrina."

Enquiries:

Neil Boom

PR Director, One News Page Ltd.

www.onenewspage.com

+44 (0) 7866 805 108

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