



Delay in Action on Hurricane Disaster Relief Funding Unprecedented

Congressional Action By the Numbers

"I would hope that the people in Congress could get their act together for about fifteen minutes and help people who are suffering. ...If the Congress can't even help Americans who have had their homes and their lives destroyed by a natural disaster then they might as well just board the place up and close it down."
-Governor Chris Christie, December 21, 2012

Hurricane Sandy made landfall on October 29, 2012

39 days later...

The White House submits a request for \$60.4 billion to Congress ([The White House](#), 12/7/12)

21 days later...

The Senate approves the request from The White House ([Reuters](#), 12/28/12)

66 days later...

The House of Representatives "Fails to Take Up Sandy Aid Bill" (Andrew Grossman, "House Fails to Take Up Sandy Aid Bill," [Wall Street Journal](#), 1/2/13)

From landfall to signing of a relief package: **Still Waiting**

Unprecedented Refusal to Act in Comparison to Other Severe and Devastating Disasters

Hurricane Katrina made landfall on August 29, 2005

4 days later...

Congress approves and President Bush signs \$10.5 billion in emergency relief. ([The Associated Press](#), 9/2/05; HR 3645)

5 days later...

The White House submits a request for \$51.8 billion to Congress. ([The Washington Post](#), 9/8/05)

1 day later...

Congress passes and President Bush signs \$51.8 billion relief package. ([The Associated Press](#), 9/8/05; HR 3673)

From landfall to signing of a relief package: **10 days**

Hurricane Gustav made landfall on September 1, 2008 and Hurricane Ike 12 days later

11 days later...

The House of Representatives passes H.R.2638 (Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009) which includes over \$20 billion in Hurricane Gustav and Ike relief funding. ([www.govtrack.us](#), Accessed: December 31, 2012)

3 days later...

The Senate passes the same bill. ([www.govtrack.us](#), Accessed: December 31, 2012)

3 days later...

President Bush signs the "Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009" which includes over \$20 billion in relief funding. (Press Release, "Statement by the President on H.R. 2638, the "Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009", [The White House](#), September 30, 2008, Accessed: December 31, 2012)

From landfall to signing of an initial relief package: **17 days**

Hurricane Andrew made landfall on August 24, 1992

25 days later...

A federal aid package was approved by both the House and Senate (Congressional Record, [Daily Digest](#), Accessed: January 2, 2013)

5 days later...

The aid package was signed by President George H. W. Bush ([www.govtrack.us](#), Accessed: January 2, 2013)

From landfall to signing of an initial relief package: **31 days**