“The Storm” - The Bungled Response to Hurricane Katrina

Answer the following questions as you watch the film. Pay special attention to the different layers of government (state, city, federal), their responses to Hurricane Katrina and their communications with each other. How is the idea of Federalism represented in this film?

Marble Cake Madness: Note in this box some of the issues you notice between various levels of government with overlapping responsibilities and the problems this creates…

1. Why did the communication system break down hours after   
   Hurricane Katrina?

1. What was the purpose of the Hurricane Pam exercise?   
   How did the outcome end up setting up failure?

1. Why has there been criticism of President George W. Bush's   
   initial response to Hurricane Katrina?

1. Previous disasters of the 20th Century led governors to push for a   
   different approach. Why? What was the result and why were early  
   years frustrating for the agency?

1. What lessons do you think were learned as a result of   
   Hurricane Katrina?

1. How did our Federalist style of government impact the reactions to this disaster? In what ways did the role of Federalism hinder the response? *(Consider arguments made in our textbook)*