



Case Study

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) *Mortuary and Accommodation Facilities, New Orleans*

"The De Boer Company has been an invaluable resource to the New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner in our planning for disasters and mass fatality management. They have generously shared their experiences and lessons learned through several deployments."

**CHARLES HIRSCH, MD,
Chief Medical Examiner**

The Context:

Within weeks of the London Bombings mortuary activation, Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf of Mexico. The most affected area was in and around the city of New Orleans in the United States.

The Requirement:

The US Authorities approached the UK Home Office for advice. De Boer was recommended by the Home Office, following the events surrounding the London Bombings and the Asian tsunami.

Amid fears of a colossal death toll, De Boer was asked to provide emergency mortuary facilities for up to 10,000 bodies for the FEMA. In addition to the mortuary facilities, De Boer was asked to provide temporary 'hotel' accommodation for almost 1,500 employees of the US oil industry, who had been badly hit by the hurricane and large numbers of emergency relief workers as well as a significant number of displaced citizens. This included sleeping areas, catering, showering, washing amenities and recreation areas.

Our Approach:

Once the scale of the requirement became clear, De Boer swiftly airlifted 600 tonnes of structures to the disaster zone, and built mortuary solutions of 25,000 square metres, as well as extensive facilities for the oil and emergency relief workers. All this undertaken in very harsh and difficult working conditions.

Fortunately, the death toll from the disaster proved to be far less than at first feared, nearer 1,000 than 10,000.

Benefits:

With this implementation, De Boer clearly demonstrated its ability to respond swiftly, and on a massive scale, in a disaster scenario, and virtually anywhere in the world.

De Boer showed that it can activate quickly, and in the light of other events, have a unique in-depth knowledge, and flexibility to adapt to the requirements in a disaster situation.



Emergency Accommodation & Mortuary Facilities, New Orleans

