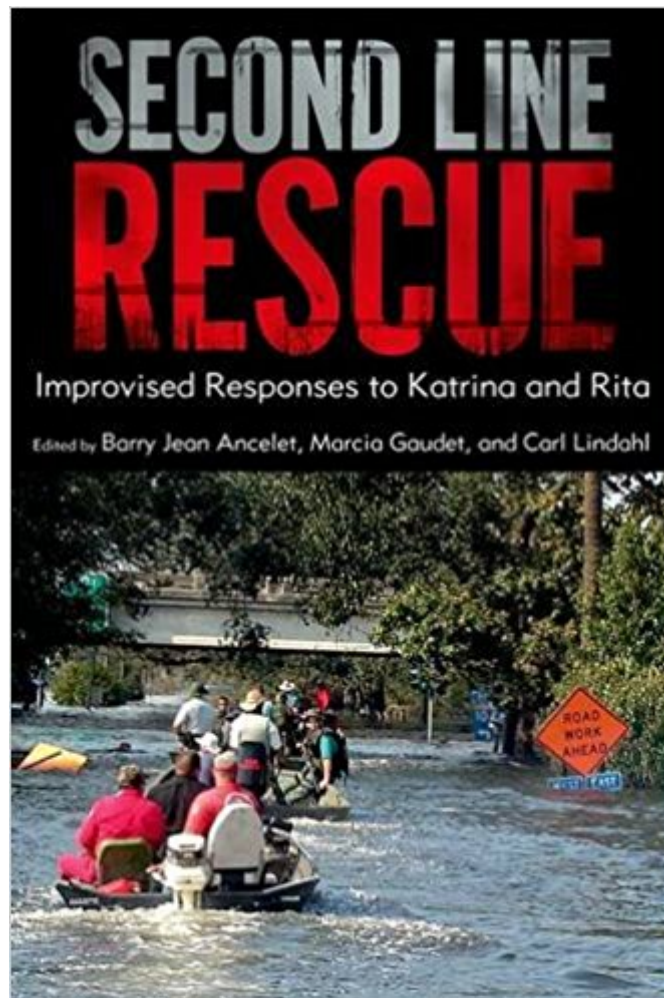


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Second Line Rescue: Improvised Responses To Katrina And Rita



Synopsis

Second Line Rescue: Improvised Responses to Katrina and Rita chronicles the brave and creative acts through which Gulf Coast people rescued their neighbors during the chaotic aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Ordinary citizens joined in with whatever resources they had. Unlike many of the official responders, vernacular rescuers found ways around paralysis produced by a breakdown in communications and infrastructure. They were able to dispel unfounded fears produced by erroneous or questionable reporting. The essays, personal narratives, media reports, and field studies presented here all have to do with effective and often ingenious answers that emerged from the people themselves. Their solutions are remarkably different from the hamstrung government response, and their perspectives are a tonic to sensationalized media coverage. The first part of the collection deals with Gulf Coast rescuers from outside stricken communities: those who, safe in their own homes and neighborhoods, marshaled their resources to help their fellow citizens. It includes some analysis and scholarly approaches, but it also includes direct responses and first-hand field reports. The second part features the words of hurricane survivors displaced from New Orleans and other Gulf Coast communities to Houston, Texas. In many cases, the victims themselves were the first responders, rescuing family, friends, and strangers. All of the stories, whether from the outside or inside responders, reveal a shared history of close-knit community bonds and survival skills sharpened by hard times. This book is about what went right in the aftermath of Katrina and Rita in spite of all that went so wrong.

Book Information

Hardcover: 228 pages

Publisher: University Press of Mississippi (May 16, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1617037966

ISBN-13: 978-1617037962

Product Dimensions: 6.3 x 1 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #850,402 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #189 in Books > Business & Money > Job Hunting & Careers > Volunteer Work #301 in Books > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Atmospheric Sciences #597 in Books > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Natural Disasters

Customer Reviews

• Second Line Rescue is an exemplary work for public-sector folklorists who work in communities ravaged by nature. In the days and weeks following Superstorm Sandy, my colleagues and I turned to this work for inspiration and guidance as we struggled with our roles in the communities we have been documenting. Sadly, natural disasters are increasing in frequency around the globe. For those seeking to play meaningful roles in the wake of disaster, this book is a model for community engagement.

• Nancy Solomon of Long Island Traditions in Folklore, Volume 126, Number 1

How beleaguered citizens created their own salvation when their institutions failed

This book is one of the few that actually focuses on the narratives of those who suffered through the devastation wrought by Katrina and Rita. Chilling stuff, particularly when describing the poor government response to the disasters.

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