



## Lessons of Disaster: Policy Change after Catastrophic Events (Paperback)

By Thomas A. Birkland

Georgetown University Press, United States, 2006. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Even before the wreckage of a disaster is cleared, one question is foremost in the minds of the public: What can be done to prevent this from happening again? Today, news media and policymakers often invoke the lessons of September 11 and the lessons of Hurricane Katrina. Certainly, these unexpected events heightened awareness about problems that might have contributed to or worsened the disasters, particularly about gaps in preparation. Inquiries and investigations are made that claim that lessons were learned from a disaster, leading us to assume that we will be more ready the next time a similar threat looms, and that our government will put in place measures to protect us. In *Lessons of Disaster*, Thomas Birkland takes a critical look at this assumption. We know that disasters play a role in setting policy agendas - in getting policymakers to think about problems - but does our government always take the next step and enact new legislation or regulations? To determine when and how a catastrophic event serves as a catalyst for true policy change, the author examines four categories of disasters: aviation...



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