

Termites Attack Louisiana Levees
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By Lisa Hoffman

Bad soil, poor design, and inadequate materials -- all have shared blame for the failure of New Orleans' levees during Hurricane Katrina. Now, add Formosan subterranean termites.

Louisiana State University professor Gregg Henderson argues that the same critters that have been munching away at much of the French Quarter for decades also ate seams in some of the floodwalls. He says he found evidence of termite damage in at least three areas where major breaks occurred.

The termites also dug tunnels under the levees, which allows water to seep through and undermine the structures. Henderson says the Army Corps of Engineers should do extensive termite testing and treatments in all the levees protecting the city.