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Rapid Development of Road Elevation Data to Support Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Operations

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One of the obstacles in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita was determining the status of established emergency evacuation routes for use in post-event evacuation and emergency response. The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) was able to aid emergency responders by rapidly providing LiDAR-based road elevation GIS data that was used for routing vehicles and watercraft through flooded streets. This paper presents the processes used in creating the road elevation datasets and compares the results of using alternative elevation models. The limitations of using the datasets are also presented, in addition to providing recommendations for supplementary uses of the data products.