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## Many Sex Offenders Missing Since Katrina

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**NEW ORLEANS** -- Hundreds of registered sex offenders -- including rapists and child molesters -- are still missing after they were displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

**Related Link:** [Sex Offender Registry](#)

Although the New Orleans Police Department and other agencies have launched an aggressive search, law enforcement faces an uphill battle.

Before the storm, there were about 1,350 registered sex offenders in the city of New Orleans.

According to the NOPD, investigators have been able to find 475 -- meaning about 875 are still missing.

"Right now, it's very common to find certain neighborhoods, certain addresses, that have not been reoccupied," NOPD spokesman Sgt. Joe Narcisse said.

Even if the sex offenders have left the city, the NOPD said, they still must register with another police department or sheriff's office.

The NOPD, meanwhile, has teamed up with multiple agencies, including the U.S. Marshals Service, to try to track down the missing offenders.

Investigators are also checking databases to see if any of the offenders' Social Security numbers have appeared in job applications around the country.

"It's a painstaking thing. We realize these are dangerous people, so we will work tirelessly to make sure we get these people off the streets," Narcisse said.



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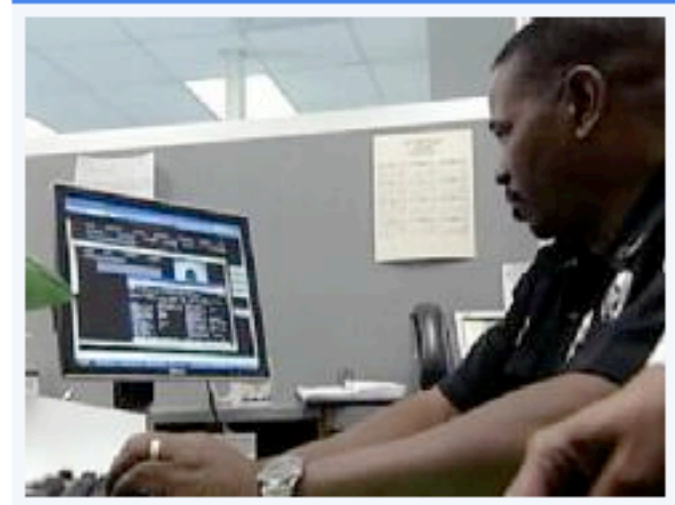
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