

## Breaking and Enterprise News

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The new world of multiplatform, multimedia journalism offers more options than ever before for bringing breaking news stories to information consumers. Journalists are getting more creative in how they report and tell their stories. Print journalists had all but given up the idea of breaking news, long ago surrendering that territory to radio and television media, which could have cameras and microphones at the scene and broadcast live. Now, however, print reporters see websites as a way to get their news reporting out immediately. They also use **social media platforms** to get their stories out. These are online tools that people use to connect with one another using websites such as Facebook and Twitter. Journalists recognize that they have the ability to make regular updates as they get more details. For non-breaking news, or **enterprise news**, journalists have even more options to offer, among them databases that can be searched to provide personalized information and interactive graphics that engage readers with their stories.

### BREAKING NEWS

News that is happening now and that journalists must cover live and on deadline is **breaking news**. Journalists covering breaking news usually go to the scene and report what is going on as quickly as possible. They want to witness firsthand what the scene looks like so they can describe it to their readers, or collect video for Web and broadcast reports. Reporters also like to talk in person with people who are part of the story. Hundreds of reporters set out to witness the devastation of New Orleans after it was hit in 2005 by Hurricane Katrina. Many reporters had a difficult time getting into the city, however, because roads were impassable and the airport was closed. Journalists who did get into New Orleans despite the hurricane's raging winds found plenty of breaking news stories. Within hours of the storm, journalists were broadcasting on the air and writing on websites about the widespread flooding after a levee broke, the lack of help for the stranded and homeless, and the lawlessness and chaos that ensued without enough police to patrol the streets.

Breaking news such as devastating hurricanes or the earthquake that struck Haiti in 2010 usually requires constant reporting in the field and constant updating of the audience. Many journalists reporting on the New Orleans and Haiti disasters expected to stay only days to cover the breaking story. However, it soon became clear in both cases that the need for updated information would continue for months. Many of the journalists who had headed to the scene immediately remained on site long after the breaking news, talking to people who had lost businesses, homes, neighbors, friends and loved ones. Reporters looked for local officials and international or national authorities who could explain what the governments and volunteers were doing to help or rebuild, and what was happening with the money being sent to aid those who were suffering. They found no shortage of stories to tell.