A SUCCESSFUL SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE PROGRAM 4 YEARS IN THE MAKING

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State Coordinator
SC facts

- 236 participating communities
- 45 CRS communities
- 19% in SFHA
- 17,651 mapped riverine and coastal miles
- 6th in the Nation for Flood Insurance Policies
October 2015 Flood Event

Figure 1. Infrared satellite image of the intense rainfall being funneled into South Carolina during the morning of October 3, 2015. (NASA)
October 2015 Flood Event
Damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its before damaged condition would equal or exceed 50% of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred. This requirement applies to structures in the regulated Floodplain.

SC has a high participation in Cumulative Substantial Damage/Improvement
State Support to Communities

SCDNR Flood Mitigation Program
• Training on SD assessments, requirements, SDE software

Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
• Expanded our office staff through EMAC
  (Deployed to SC for 6 weeks)

FEMA (at the request of SCDNR)
• HMTAP: Hazard Mitigation Technical Assistance Program
  – FEMA contracted to provide Substantial Damage Assessment services to communities
    that requested assistance free of charge
Lessons Learned

- Communities wanted more involvement
- HMTAP
  - Timeline for conducting and delivery of assessments
  - Lack of Control
  - Inconsistency in assessments
  - Lack of community involvement in the assessments
    - Communities did not learn how to do SDEs
    - Created a lack of trust in the results
    - No knowledge to interpret the data
  - Lack of use of the data by the communities
2016 – Here We Go Again
Hurricane Matthew (October 2016)
Hurricane Matthew

Communities did not want to participate in a HMTAP. So communities committed to conducting the assessments with our assistance through training and field support.

A few communities volunteered to assist hard hit communities in the field.
Lessons Learned

• Many communities have the capacity and willingness to conduct their own assessments
• Heavy hit communities needed assistance
• Limited Follow up
2017 – And Again
Hurricane Irma  (September 2017)
Site Visits
Lessons Learned

• Many communities were able to conduct their own assessments
• Discovered some communities may have not been completely honest about the damage from the previous events
• Need for more long-term assistance
2018 – Really…Again
Hurricane Florence (September 2018)
Hurricane Florence

- SCDNR trained and coordinated locations and volunteers
- Used volunteers from SCDNR staff, non-hit communities, FEMA Corps and State Guard to assist communities
Lessons Learned

- Management of locations and community needs was challenging
- Collection of data
- Processing of data
- Managing Volunteers
- Back to Back disasters creates huge issues regarding SD and enforcement
Outcomes
Outcomes

• Speed is paramount
• SD Training Program
• Long Term Substantial Damage Assistance
• Substantial Damage Volunteer Network
• Data Collection Tool
Things I Never Thought I would Hear, See, or Say in the Field After a Flood
See

Fish Stuck To The Side Of A House
See

Cowhide Toilet Seat Cover
Hear

- SDE partner states after weeks in the field
- "I just want civilized food"
Hear

Do you live here?

Y’all ask to many questions!
Hear

We can send in an Alligator strike team
Don’t stick
your
head in
the
poop water!
Thank You!