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Subject: Draft: SCEMD's SCFlood NR

Hi Chaney and Brian,

Here is a draft of our 1yr flood news release for you to take a look at if you have a moment. We'd like to send this out Monday morning if that's ok.

If there's anything you think we should add or change, please let me know!

One Year since Historic Flooding, SCEMD Encourages Precautions and Recovery Plans

Columbia, S.C. (Monday, October 3, 2015) – This week marks the one-year anniversary of South Carolina's worst disaster since Hurricane Hugo in 1989. Beginning October 3, 2015, increased heavy rain caused widespread severe flooding in more than half the state. During the storm, 19 people died, approximately 20,000 people evacuated their homes, more than 500 roads and bridges were closed and 50 dams failed or breached. Approximately 941 people stayed in 32 emergency shelters in 26 counties. Volunteers served more than 2-million emergency meals. Through FEMA, 28,187 people statewide received disaster assistance.

The S.C. Emergency Management Division continues recovery efforts with local governments and partner organizations statewide to ensure that every flood survivor's needs are addressed. On this occasion, SCEMD asks everyone to reflect on the events of the past year by reviewing personal and family emergency plans, checking emergency supplies and talking to friends and loved ones about what each should do in the event of a large-scale emergency such as widespread flooding.

"The October 2015 flood tested every resource in the state," SCEMD Director Kim Stenson said "In terms of the emergency response, we found no systemic issues locally or statewide, but we do have parts of our emergency planning efforts that we will refine and expand as a result of the flood. I hope that everyone in South Carolina joins SCEMD in taking a look at what we all experienced last October and finding ways that we can all be even more prepared in case of emergency."

Disasters, such as flooding, can strike quickly with little to no warning. Families can and do cope with disaster by preparing in advance and working together as a team. You may not be with your loved ones if a disaster strikes, and help may not be available right way. It's important to think about the following questions and plan just in case:

- § What emergencies are most likely to occur in my area?
- § How will my family/household get emergency alerts and warnings?
- § How will my family/household get to safe locations for relevant emergencies?
- § How will I be able to communicate if my cell phone, internet or landline phone doesn't work?
- § How will I let everyone know I am safe?
- § How will we all get to a safe meeting place after the emergency?
- § Do we have enough supplies to survive at least three days without help?
- § How can people in our neighborhood help each other during an emergency?

Having a plan to recover from a major disaster is the next step to being personally prepared for emergencies:

- § Consider what you should do if you are not able to remain in your home following the disaster
- § Take into account the needs of every member of your family following a disaster when access to

normal amenities will be scarce.

- § Make time now to review your insurance policies. Do you have adequate coverage? Include pictures of your personal items as part of your insurance inventory.
- § Become familiar with the types of assistance programs that could be made available following a disaster, such as those through FEMA and local volunteer organizations.
- § Keep important documents such as medical records, tax returns, social security cards, etc., in a watertight container or secure personal computing cloud so that you will have all the information you need to file a claim or apply for disaster assistance.
- § Get to know the many legitimate ways to donate goods and volunteer your time in your community so you are certain disaster survivors who need help the most receive your contributions.

The response to and the recovery from any major disaster begins and ends locally at home, in neighborhoods and communities. SCEMD provides the following resources to help you start your emergency planning:

[Types of disasters in South Carolina](#)
[Family emergency supplies kit checklist](#)
[Disaster planning tips for families](#)
[Help for people with functional needs](#)
[Preparing your pets for emergencies](#)
[Emergency planning for businesses](#)
[Disaster recovery programs](#)

October 2015 Historic Flood resources:

[All state news releases and information from October 1-23, 2015](#)
[FEMA Information- South Carolina Severe Flood Disaster](#)
[Hearts and Hands Disaster Case Management](#)

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"South Carolina's emergency management program minimizes loss of life and property damage from all-hazard incidents."