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Subject: Long Term Recovery Situation Report (SITREP #18)

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Governor - this week's SITREP for your review and comments:

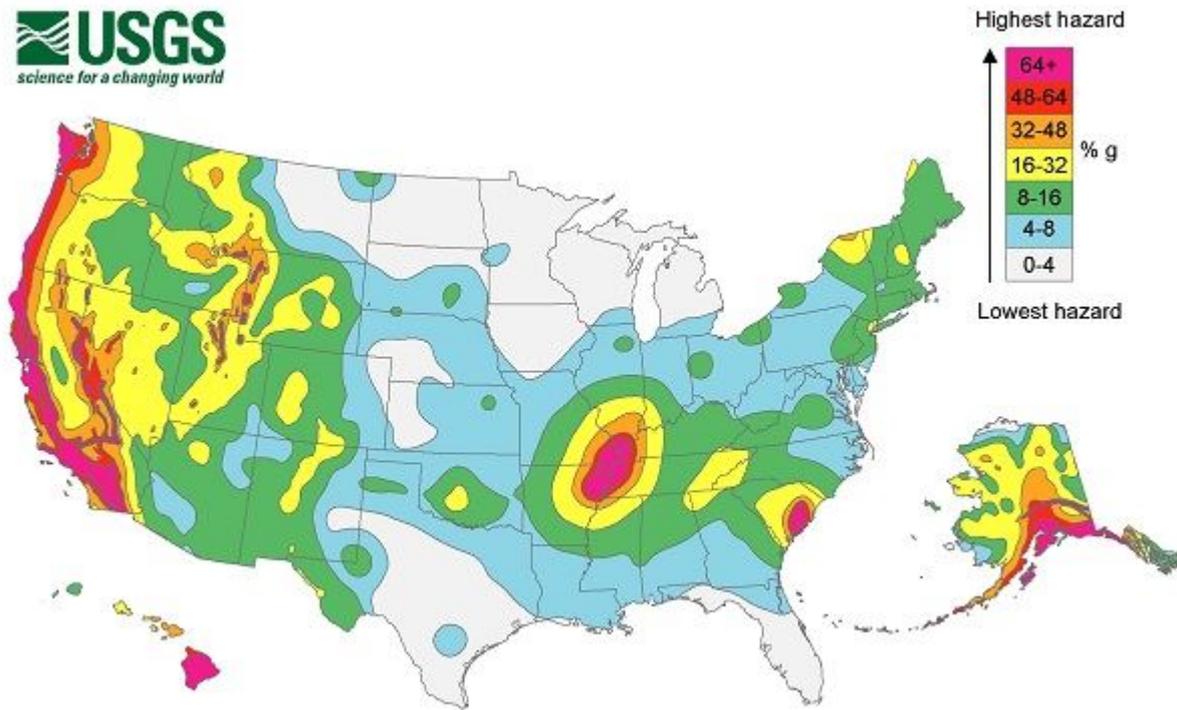
1. We are at a virtual standstill until the Federal Government publishes the Federal Registry. We will get no significant funding to do anything significant UNTIL we have an opportunity to submit an Action Plan derived from the Federal Registry AND obtain an approval for that plan from HUD. We have been told it could be days, weeks or even months before we will see it. I was told by HUD that there have been cases where it has taken over a year to get the Registry published. In an effort to help dislodge it, I am considering a trip to DC next week to get an objective assessment. It is extremely frustrating to watch the most vulnerable continue to wait on a bureaucratic process slow their return to clean, safe homes!
2. Per your Executive Order, we have established a Disaster Recovery Board. We conducted the first meeting and are scheduled to hold our next public meeting on May 26<sup>th</sup>. In reality, I have almost no confidence in any of our timelines – we have modified them almost weekly since January. The Disaster Recovery Board will decide upon a number of key issues including adopting the unmet needs assessment, eligibility prioritization, and the methods of distribution of funds. All of these lead to a completed Action Plan which we will then produce for public comment. Specifically, we will post the Action Plan for comment on the Department of Commerce website and will take the key tenants of the Plan and turn them into presentation. We will then brief the presentation the Executive Branch, Legislative Branch, County Administrators, the Media and in turn, six public comment sessions across the state to gather citizen input.
3. Coordination Meetings Attended and Locations:

- a. J.R. Sanderson and team attended the Winyah Bay LTRG Steering Committee meeting on 29 April. They presented the updated Social Vulnerability Index presentation. The presentation was well received and led to an active question and answer session. The VOADs in attendance were especially interested in the presentation. Many felt that they could possibly use this in the grant application process to receive more funds. The next scheduled Steering Comm. Meeting is May 27.
- b. The 8 Days Of Hope (8DOH) group had previously met in Columbia with us to discuss helping with the our flood disaster recovery. After seeing the Social Vulnerability presentation, they decided to do visit our two most vulnerable counties - Georgetown and Williamsburg as potential work sites. They visited the Jerusalem Center and a disaster site central to both counties. The LTRG did an excellent job getting the necessary players in attendance for the meeting. After the meeting, the 8DOH team and the SCDR team went on a tour of the possible sites for housing the potential 2000 volunteers. The 8DOH team discussed logistics and solutions to the distances between sites. They were very positive about coming to the area in late September or early October. 8DOH was very interested in the case management of the proposed repair sites. Of the possible 600 sites, they will have to narrow it 200 sites to meet their capabilities.
  - i. They hope to start on 150 – 180 homes. Priority will be homes that already have materials in place and permits secured. Focus is on “standard construction”, owner-occupied homes. They did not want to consider rentals because their experience suggested that rent has doubled after completion of repairs. The target audience appears to be 170 homes in Georgetown County and 445 in Williamsburg County.
  - ii. All Hands Volunteers mentioned that ongoing roof repairs are an issue, and that mold remediation cannot be completed. They asked if Eight Days could come down early and fix roofs. 8DOH said that they may be able to conduct “Tarp Weekends,” which would place tarps on roofs so that the mold remediation could be completed before they arrive for the bulk of the work.
  - iii. A decision on whether the mission is approved will come within the next two or three weeks.
- c. Members of Lee the Tri-County LTRG Steering Committee (Sumter, Clarendon, Lee) met on Thursday, 4 May. They continue to instruct all potential clients to call 211 so they can get into the CAN case management system. Their priority of effort is four (4) homes that they plan to work on in the next couple of weeks.
- d. The BCD (Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester) LTRC met on Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>.

The group is moving forward with developing a webpage for the group. They are still looking for a treasurer for the group and are working on the paperwork needed to become a 501c3. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is offering \$52,000 to hire a construction manager to work in the BCD area. Hearts and Hands Disaster Recovery have registered 72 through 211 Call Centers.

4. In response to your request for information from the Hurricane Exercise last Friday:
  - a. It is clear that we need additional volunteers from the state to man many of the state's shelters. An out of the box thought may be to accept risk in other parts of the state by directing state agencies to minimum manning models in the non-affected areas. As an example, the DMV (and other state agencies) could accept risk to mission for about two weeks in a two phase program:
    - I. Replace impacted DMV employees with volunteers from other DMVs around the state so they can begin recovery and to ensure that essential services are made available to communities in the impacted area.
    - II. Authorize DMVs around the state to provide only minimum essential services for up to two weeks (we would accept longer wait times – probably 20-30 minutes at non-impacted DMVs) so that larger numbers of employees can deploy in support of the emergency.
  - b. It was very interesting to hear FEMA talk about the programs they would offer the state. One very significant lesson learned – they will have to be pressed hard to make those programs available to the next disaster. They work hard to minimize the amount of the cost of the disaster. There were several programs offered by FEMA HQs in our disaster, which the FCO worked overtime to take off the table. All FEMA briefs to the state MUST provide Benchmarks from previous similar disasters to determine whether the state is being treated appropriately. FEMA programs that provide immediate assistance MUST be leveraged because CDBG-DR and HMGP money take forever to leverage!
  - c. Case Management Contracts, Volunteer Assistance Liaisons, and VOADs have to be mobilized immediately. Certain VOADs were rendered ineffective and never utilized because they lacked state approval of regulation exemptions (VOADs – Medical Support – Doctors, Dentists and Optometrists; Potable Water availability, etc.).
  - d. Cannot be tempted to fight the past war (the ice storm did not prepare us for the rain and floods). The rain and flood will not prepare us for a hurricane with a mandatory evacuation and massive destruction created by high winds – nor will the

other disasters prepare us for the massive destruction (homes and infrastructure) created by an earthquake that USGS statistics indicate are overdue for a significant seismic event in the East.



Respectfully,  
Kevin

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*"It's a GREAT day in South Carolina!"*