

MEMO

TO: Swati Patel
FROM: Austin Smith
DATE: October 8, 2015
RE: Flood Impacts

Commerce

Five Commerce Staff are rotating through staffing of SEOC with Richard Hodgkiss, EMD ESF 24 Business and Industry Lead. They have provided morning and afternoon updates to our national/regional partners and key chambers of commerce.

Commerce has communicated directly with each of our county economic development professionals to be certain that the manufacturers in their respective counties were open for business, and they also made direct calls to major manufacturers in the counties of concern seeking input as to any problems they may be experiencing. Fortunately, they all appeared to come through the weather event very well.

Two common responses: (1) Difficulty in getting raw materials into the plant and finished goods out due to closures on I-95, US State Highways and rail service, and (2) Difficulty getting employees to the plant site because of high water and damaged or closed roads.

Commerce has also worked with the Small Business Development Centers, SCORE and others to undergo training for distributing information on SBA Disaster Loan Programs.

Finally, there is ongoing work with prospects considering those areas of the state not impacted by flooding.

Ports

As a result of rail outages, the Port has established a temporary truck bridge to keep cargo moving seamlessly for customers. The Port is also running some extra hours to ensure no delay as a result of the rail interruptions. Generally speaking, the Ports have not been greatly impacted. The Georgetown Port has been assessed and any at risk assets have been secured.

Parks and Tourism

Tourism

Statewide hotel occupancy for SC last weekend (Friday and Saturday only) was down 20%. It would have been worse if not for the Clemson football game (Anderson was up 19% and

Greenville was flat). Much like 2009 and 2010, Myrtle Beach took the biggest hit. Given that occupancy was down 20%, it's likely that tourism overall was down about the same last weekend.

	Friday Oct 2nd Occ %chg	Saturday Oct 3rd Occ %chg	Full Weekend Occ %chg
United States	1.9	0.2	1.0
South Atlantic	-2.9	-5.6	-4.3
South Carolina	-15.6	-24.2	-20.0
Savannah, GA	-15.5	-15.8	-15.7
Myrtle Beach, SC	-24.9	-40.5	-33.0
Martinez/Aiken/I-20, GA	-12.2	-16.2	-14.2
Rock Hill/Monroe, SC	-14.0	-20.0	-17.2
Spartanburg, SC	-12.0	-14.8	-13.4
Greenville, SC	0.2	-1.7	-0.8
Anderson/Clemson, SC	17.6	21.5	19.6
Columbia East, SC	-12.0	-18.9	-15.5
Columbia West, SC	-10.3	-20.4	-15.6
Florence/Dillon, SC	5.4	-1.6	1.8
Orangeburg/Sumter, SC	-9.2	-15.4	-12.4
Hilton Head/Beaufort, SC	-9.8	-21.3	-15.7
I-95 Walterboro/Hardeeville, SC	-21.3	-34.8	-28.5
South Carolina Rural Areas	-12.9	-15.6	-14.3
North Charleston, SC	-23.2	-23.1	-23.1
Charleston Airport, SC	-22.1	-22.7	-22.4
Charleston/West Ashley, SC	-24.2	-35.0	-29.7
Mount Pleasant/Isle Of Palms, SC	-24.5	-30.2	-27.4
Myrtle Beach/North, SC	-33.2	-46.8	-40.0
Myrtle Beach/South, SC	-20.2	-37.3	-29.3

This impact from last weekend was from forecasts of torrential rain and not damage to infrastructure, flooding, etc. We will have numbers for the current week on Wednesday of next week to show the impact for this week and upcoming weekend.

Tourism is still taking a beating from people canceling, because they have seen the worst of damage in Columbia in a 30 second news clip and associate that with the entire state. Duane has spoken to tourism and industry leaders who are "open and ready for business," but the message people are getting in Kansas and NY is "stay away." PRT has temporarily stopped social and digital media, but plans to resume amplifying the messages from destinations.

Parks

Below is a chart that shows known revenue losses in state parks through October 7th based on revenues of the same dates last year. This number will grow over the next week with cancellations and some parks that are closed or have damage.

Upstate parks are unfazed, and all parks should be reopened by the middle of next week, with one exception. The campground at Santee has a washed out road that will remain almost completely inaccessible until next spring. Some vehicles and RVs are still in the campground and unable to get out, PRT will have the people and vehicles out today. RVs will be there for significantly longer. Physical damage to parks is estimated between \$750k and \$1 million.

	FY 2015	Per Day Revenue	Total During Closure	Status
Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site	\$1,440,483.66	\$3,946.53	\$7,893.06	Open Now
Colonial Dorchester State Historic Site	\$23,057.25	\$63.17	\$252.68	Closed
Edisto Beach State Park	\$1,734,765.51	\$4,752.78	\$9,505.56	Partially Open
Hampton Plantation State Historic Site	\$30,271.60	\$82.94	\$331.74	Closed
Hunting Island State Park	\$3,859,440.24	\$10,573.81	\$31,721.43	Partially Open
Huntington Beach State Park	\$2,934,980.24	\$8,041.04	\$16,082.08	Partially Open
Myrtle Beach State Park	\$3,608,665.23	\$9,886.75	\$39,547.02	Partially Open
Santee State Park	\$1,055,622.05	\$2,892.12	\$11,568.46	Partially Open
Sesquicentennial State Park	\$425,937.10	\$1,166.95	\$4,667.80	Closed
Total	\$15,113,222.88	\$41,406.09	\$121,569.84	

Railroads

Norfolk Southern

Norfolk Southern has restored operations on most key rail lines in South Carolina that were damaged due to flooding.

- Columbia-to-Augusta Line (*R Line-South*) is back in service.
- Columbia-to-Charlotte Line (*R Line-North*) is back in service.
- Columbia-to-Charleston Line (*SC Line*) is expected to be in service by 12:01am October 9th.

- Columbia-to-Spartanburg Line (*W line*) is projected to be out of service for two to three weeks due to bridge repairs. Traffic is being rerouted to accommodate local service to customers. Minor delays should be expected.

The latest ETA and routing information is always available through *Pacesetter* and *accessNS*.

CSX

CSX operations in South Carolina continue to be impacted by recent flooding. The line between Charleston, SC and Florence, SC is flooded near Kingstree, SC with water levels slowly receding. Customers with freight traveling across this line should expect delays of 24 to 48 hours. Traffic scheduled through this area is being re-routed and other lines are being restored as quickly as possible to allow service to local customers.

As conditions in the area gradually improve, rail infrastructure in some locations could be as long as a week before being fully restored. CSX continues to closely monitor operations to ensure normal train operations resume as soon as possible.

The CSX Customer Service team is available 24/7 to field any questions should customers need more details. Customers can sign up on ShipCSX to automatically receive service advisory notifications.

Timber

Timber landowners fared better than other agriculture. Typically, flooding doesn't cause problems in established forest stands, but things planted in the last year or two will be vulnerable. Fortunately, winds were relatively calm and didn't cause a lot of problems.

Some lands won't be able to be planted this year, which will put cycles behind for a year and create costs to control unwanted foliage growth. The lost growth from newly planted and an inability to plant this fall is expected to cause eight figure damage.

Transporters and mills will be the most impacted. Even after the woods dry out, logging roads and bridges may be impassable. Forest products mills will be hard hit because of the inability to harvest or transport. Inventory at mills typically only lasts days. The overall impact to the industry will be significant, and the Forestry Commission is working on estimates.