

**From:** Beth Bernstein <Beth@bblawsc.com>  
**To:** Veldran, KatherineKatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov  
**CC:** joellourie@gmail.comjoellourie@gmail.com  
**Date:** 11/20/2015 4:05:20 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Woolpert flood imagery

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Katherine,

Brian Bates is a constituent of Joel and mine and works at Woolpert as a Senior Associate. He and Woolpert were instrumental in getting the aerial imagery maps completed immediately after the flood devastation at a significant cost to the company -- estimated at ~\$25,000. As you know, these maps were vital to SCEMD and other state agencies in assessing damage, preparing relief efforts, etc. See press release below.

It would be most appreciative if Governor Haley would acknowledge them for this service to our community and state.

Please let me know if you need anything further or have any questions.

Thank you in advance!!

Best,



**Representative Beth Bernstein**  
SC House of Representatives  
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**From:** Bates, Brian [mailto:Brian.Bates@Woolpert.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 20, 2015 12:36 PM  
**To:** Beth Bernstein <Beth@bblawsc.com>  
**Subject:** Woolpert flood imagery

Beth,

Below is the press release that was sent out November 4<sup>th</sup>. If you need a better quality version of this press release it can be found at the following link. <http://woolpert.com/resource/imagery-assists-disaster-response-in-south-carolina/>.

Thank you for your help in this matter and do not hesitate to contact me if you need anything that I can be assistance with,

**Brian T. Bates, PE**

Project Director, Watershed Management  
Senior Associate



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**Jill Kelley**

8:06 AM on November 4

**Press Release: Imagery Assists Disaster Response in South Carolina**

COLUMBIA, S.C. (Nov. 4, 2015) — One month ago today, a “thousand-year” rain event hit South Carolina, spurring widespread flooding throughout much of the state.

In an effort to address the immediate needs of those affected by the disaster and to document the event for future study, Woolpert collected perishable aerial imagery as the waters crested.

The national engineering and geospatial firm then shared the data generated by that imagery with multiple state agencies and local governments, including and the South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD), the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), the South Carolina Army National Guard (SCARNG), Fort Jackson, the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT), Richland and Lexington counties, and the city of Columbia.

“Tuesday, Oct. 6, two days after the largest rainfall event ever recorded in the midlands of South Carolina, Woolpert conducted an aerial imagery flight of the hardest hit area,” said Maj. Bryan B. Tolar of SCARNG. “The resulting imagery was uploaded to a website created and hosted by Woolpert at its Dayton, Ohio, headquarters the next day.”

Tolar said the website helped local governments respond to road and dam failures, assisted in briefing ranking officials on the situation and provided valuable information to the general public via the SCEMD website.

Dr. Patrick Bresnahan, geospatial information officer for Richland County, said the imagery provided by Woolpert was valuable immediately.

“I am so thankful for getting that call from (Woolpert) and for what was provided,” Bresnahan said. “Having lived through a natural disaster, I learned it was the corporate citizens who were there first. Woolpert, Google—there was no paperwork, and (they) were there. It was a huge resource to have it immediately, instead of dragging this thing out.”

Woolpert has offices in Columbia, Mt. Pleasant and Greenville, S.C.

“Because of their S.C. roots and their understanding of the situation, Woolpert provided this service and product on their own initiative and at their own expense,” Tolar said. “Woolpert decided to conduct the flight, delineated the flight area with input from SCEMD, flew the area, flew back to Dayton, Ohio, downloaded and processed the data, designed and built the website, and went live in a span of 36 hours.”

Project Director Brian Bates, who managed Woolpert’s effort in Columbia, said the company felt the need to provide assistance where it could.

“South Carolina has been good to Woolpert for the past 20 years, and this was our opportunity to give something back,” Bates said. “We had the ability to do it, and we had the resources. If we had a chainsaw and that was needed to help our neighbor, we’d use a chainsaw. We had an airplane, so we used an airplane.”

Bresnahan said the technology employed via the cloud, which housed the imagery away from

impacted areas, and the mobile app were key to the use of the imagery.

“The Woolpert app worked and was very much needed since everybody’s out in the field,” he said.

“Having that imagery tool, before and after the event, has been great. It has been used every day and continues to be a key part of our recovery efforts.”

If you wish to share information about this event or Woolpert's role in the recovery efforts, feel free to share this release and direct people to [woolpert.com/sc-flooding](http://woolpert.com/sc-flooding).

[View Image](#)

**Brian T. Bates, PE**

Project Director, Watershed Management  
Senior Associate



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