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FYSA-DR-4241-SC 10.30.15 Media Monitoring Morning Report

NEWS CLIPS

SOUTH CAROLINA-DR-4241

10/30/15

Morning

Issues:

- None.

Summary:

- Dorchester County Council is hosting a Community Meeting with **FEMA** Tuesday in Summerville
- A **FEMA** information session will take place Saturday in Columbia, at the Eau Claire Community Center, from 11am to 1pm.
- WISTV reported yesterday that after several flood victims complained that they were being told to leave a hotel without a home to go to, the S.C. Department of Social Services partnered with The Salvation Army to allow them to stay at the hotel for another week. There is no mention of FEMA housing assistance being involved in these cases
- WIS TV, NBC in Columbia, produced a major report on dams yesterday, reporting the state may take action soon on some, whether the dams' owners seek aid or not. DHEC issued emergency orders for 75 dams and gave the owners until Monday to respond and start action. Ten haven't responded, and DHEC may now hire contractors on its own to deal with them. WIS talked to people whose property was devastated by dams that broke.
- Columbia area mayors make joint appeal for more donations to the Central Carolina Community Foundation's fund that will help Columbia area non-profits aid in flood recovery. Nearly \$500,000 has come in so far.
- News outlets continue to make use of the release about DSNAP food stamp benefits in disaster counties and the deadlines for disaster unemployment assistance
- King tide flooding in Charleston this week is giving NOAA the opportunity to test the accuracy of a new sea-rise flooding forecast model and found it was accurate to a surprisingly local scale. The model is already being used to forecast El Nino high water levels on the West Coast and is now being considered as a planning tool to identify vulnerable low-lying areas.
- Charleston restaurant dock collapse indicates Hurricane Joaquin and the recent astronomical high tides could have weakened any number of piers and docks in the Charleston area, says DHEC. Dock builders see uptick in business.
- Clarendon County Clemson Extension Agent Hannah Mickell said Clarendon County farmers will see "almost a total loss, no matter what the crop."
- Beekeeper in Berkeley County concerned mosquito spraying there will kill his bees
- Mosquito spraying planned in Florence County
- Most shops in Lexington's Old Mill have reopened following flood damage repairs
- Charleston Main Road construction begins; goal in part is to reduce flooding
- Recent high tides have left beaches in Cherry Grove section of North Myrtle Beach even more eroded than they already were after the storms earlier in the month, and the tidal flooding there is now much worse.
- Flood tides may persist through the weekend in Charleston

Analysis:

- By far, the most coverage in the past day was of the news conference held by the local Lexington and Richland County mayors, who asked the public to donate to the area community foundation that will funnel money to nonprofits helping people recover from flooding.

Social Listening Analysis:

TOPICS FROM SOCIAL MEDIA:

- FEMA.** Conversations around **FEMA** and flooding are minimal, with most mentions coming from a small number of posts about [local events](#) that include **FEMA** representatives.
- Flood relief updates.** As charitable and nonprofit organizations continue to help with different aspects of flood relief, many people have been sharing [stories](#) and [information](#) about how much work has been done by these groups. These posts and updates from local media about [stories they are covering](#) make up the bulk of social media posts about the flooding.
- Community relief.** Efforts to concentrate a high volume of item collection and distribution in a single location have been progressing forward, with the [Palmetto Project Community Flood Hub](#) reporting that they are fully set up. Family needs are still being shared on a [variety](#) of different Facebook groups; many of these requests are [being fulfilled](#) on an ad hoc basis.

Floods

[Dorchester County Council hosting community meeting with FEMA](#)
[Public Forum Regarding FEMA Assistance Scheduled For Saturday](#)
[DSS partnership gives flood victims temporary housing](#)
[Residents Impacted by Flood Can Get Food Assistance](#)
[Disastrous dams leave a mark on the Midlands](#)
[Georgetown County reduces fee for flood-related building permits](#)
[Deadlines approaching to file for disaster aid](#)
[Flood waters create huge issues for Clarendon County farming industry](#)
[Farmers Get More Bad News At Local Meeting](#)
[Flood leaves Forence County residents fighting mosquitoes, what the county plans to do about it](#)
[Bee-farmer in-Berkeley County concerned about mosquito-spraying](#)
[Lexington's Old Mill Is Almost Completely Re-Opened](#)
[A Local Business Owner has a Huge Sale to Recover from SC Flood](#)
[Flood relief fundraiser to assist non-profits off to strong start](#)
[Mayors urge public to donate to flood relief fund](#)
[Columbia area mayors unite to lead flood recovery efforts](#)
[Mayors, Town Leaders Urge Residents to Give to Flood Fund](#)
[Flood relief fund to help SC on road to recovery](#)
[Midlands mayors ask for flood relief donations](#)
[Lexington Police Deliver Supplies for Flood Victims](#)
[Main Road improvements project underway](#)
[Spot flooding might occur through weekend](#)
[Postal carrier says he broke leg in Crosby's dock collapse](#)
[Dock builders seeing increase in repairs following weather events](#)
[Erosion Worsens Flooding For Cherry Grove Neighborhoods](#)
[TV/Radio Clips](#)

Floods

Dorchester County Council hosting community meeting with FEMA

By Kelly Bazzle

WCBD News 2, NBC Charleston, October 29, 2015, 4:07 pm

Two new **FEMA** Disaster Recovery Centers opening in Georgetown County

PRESS RELEASE – Dorchester County Council is hosting a Community Meeting with the **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** on Tuesday, November 10, 2015 at 7:00PM at Dorchester County Council Chambers located at 500 N. Main Street in Summerville.

Representatives from **FEMA**, the South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) and Small Business Administration (SBA) will be present to provide information on filing for assistance, deadlines, denials and appeals, and to answer questions from community members.

All homeowners and small business owners impacted by the flood are invited and encouraged to attend.

Individuals/families and businesses have until Friday, December 4, 2015 to apply for assistance through **FEMA** by calling (800) 621-**FEMA** or visiting www.disasterassistance.gov

For more information about flood assistance, please visit the Dorchester County website at:

<http://www.dorchestercounty.net/index.aspx?page=949>

Public Forum Regarding FEMA Assistance Scheduled For Saturday

By Matthew Stevens

WACH-TV Columbia (SC), October 30, 2015

COLUMBIA, SC (WACH) – A **FEMA** information session will take place Saturday at the Eau Claire Community Center from 11am to 1pm.

The public is invited to attend to learn more on **FEMA** application deadlines, get assistance with the appeal process, learn more on additional resources, among other information.

The goal of the event is to provide the latest information to Lexington and Richland County residents and to ensure all residents are on the road to recovery.

The Eau Claire Community Center is located at 830 Wildwood Avenue in Columbia.

DSS partnership gives flood victims temporary housing

By LaDonna Beeker

WIS TV 10, NBC Columbia, Oct 29, 2015

COLUMBIA, SC (WIS) -After several flood victims complained Thursday that they were being told to leave a hotel without a home to go to, the S.C. Department of Social Services partnered with The Salvation Army to allow them to stay at the hotel for another week.

A call to the WIS newsroom led to a handful of victims standing outside of the hotel with bins of their belongings stacked outside the main entrance to the Days Inn on Garners Ferry Road. They say they had no home to go to after losing transportation and all their belongings in the historic flood. Fourteen adults were moved into the Days Inn a week ago by the state agency. Six of them were originally told to leave this week, while the remaining had until Nov. 5 to checkout of the hotel.

“These particular residents are folks that had been in shelters, and we had moved them to this temporary housing in the hopes that we could have the time to work with them to find more permanent housing,” DSS Director Susan Alford said, adding that at the peak of the flooding disaster there were more than 900 victims in shelters in the state.

The flood victims said they were told they’d have a room at the hotel for two weeks, but Thursday, they said they were given an hour’s notice to pack up and leave. They feared they’d be left with no place to go.

“We were told we could have a tent and a sleeping bag, but I mean, I wasn’t homeless before this. I shouldn’t be homeless now,” said Carol Bell, flood victim.

Carol and her brother Wesley were living at the same location at the time of the flood. Wesley hasn’t been able to work since his vehicle was also ruined by the flood.

“We are supposed to have two weeks here to try to get back, to get something going on,” Wesley said. “And they drop us off here with no food, no nothing and didn’t even give us a bus pass like they were supposed to, so we could go take care of business and help ourselves.”

DSS could not say whether a tent and sleeping bag were offered to the disaster victims or whether they were not given the food and clothing needed, but said they have been working one-on-one with each adult at the hotel and are still exploring options to get them permanent homes.

“We really all work together to try to as much as possible make sure everybody has food and clothing and adequate resources to be able to make it through a very trying time for them,” Alford said. “So I am not sure in this particular case if there were some issue that had arisen based on different individuals that have offered support.”

In addition, DSS said the flood victims were told before Thursday when they would have to leave the hotel.

“We are going to be working with all the residents at the hotel as we have been throughout the recovery period,”

Alford said, adding she hoped all the issues these victims had with DSS were resolved Thursday.

Residents Impacted by Flood Can Get Food Assistance

[Associated Press](#), Oct. 29, 2015

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP, WLTX) - Some South Carolina residents who lost property or income due to this month's historic flooding are eligible for temporary food assistance.

The state Department of Social Services announced Friday that people living in 20 counties affected by the disaster can apply for debit-like cards that can be used to buy food at grocery stores and other retailers: Bamberg, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Clarendon, Colleton, Darlington, Dorchester, Florence, Georgetown, Greenwood, Horry, Kershaw, Lee, Lexington, Newberry, Orangeburg, Richland, Sumter, and Williamsburg.

However, you must wait until the designated start week to apply. To see a schedule of when you can apply, click [here](#).

Applicants must show they suffered unreimbursed losses in the disaster, such as damage or destruction to their home or lost wages.

They must also be prepared to give the following information:

- Proof of Identity

- Proof of Address

- Proof of Income

- Proof of the value of unreimbursed damages incurred as a direct result of the storm

- Proof of loss or inaccessibility of income

People in certain ZIP codes within the counties who already receive help through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program will automatically get money added to their cards. Others will have to request a supplement.

Here is a further explanation, provided by DSS:

Current SNAP recipients in the following counties DO NOT need to come to a local county office to receive DSNAP benefits; they will automatically receive a supplement on their EBT cards: Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Horry, Kershaw, Lee, Lexington, Richland, and Sumter.

Current SNAP recipients in the zip codes below DO NOT need to come to a local county office to receive DSNAP benefits; they will automatically receive a supplement on their EBT cards:

- Clarendon – 29102, 29125, 29148, 29111

- Colleton – 29488, 29945, 29446

- Darlington – 29069, 29532

- Dorchester – 29456, 29420, 29472, 29483, 29485

- Florence – 29560, 29501, 29506, 29541

- Georgetown – 29440, 29510, 29554, 29585

- Newberry – 29075, 29126, 29127

- Orangeburg – 29018, 29039, 29047, 29048, 29059, 29112, 29113, 29115, 29118, 29142, 29163

- Williamsburg – 29056, 29510, 29556, 29560, 29564, 29590

Current SNAP recipients in Clarendon, Colleton, Darlington, Dorchester, Florence, Georgetown, Newberry, Orangeburg, and Williamsburg counties who DO NOT live within the zip codes listed above AND who suffered a disaster loss may go to the designated site in their county of residence and file an Affidavit of Loss to request a supplement of their October SNAP benefits.

Current SNAP recipients in Bamberg and Greenwood counties who suffered a disaster loss may go to the designated site in their county of residence and file an Affidavit of Loss to request a supplement of their October SNAP benefits.

Disastrous dams leave a mark on the Midlands

By Charles Molineaux

[WIS TV 10](#) NBC Columbia, Oct. 29, 2015

COLUMBIA, SC (WIS) -After this year's devastating floods, the state may take action soon to deal with possible safety issues at almost a dozen dams, whether the dams' owners ask for it or not.

DHEC now says its inspectors have issued emergency orders for 75 dams across the state and gave the owners until Monday to respond and start action, like letting water out of them. Ten still haven't responded, and DHEC may now hire contractors on its own to deal with them.

WIS took a look at the inspection reports on some of the dams that failed, causing disastrous flooding in the Midlands. The reports' findings on the dams' condition was not a solid predictor of what would happen to them.

Disastrous Dams

"We've cried a few tears, and we are just trying to get everything together again, said homeowner Susan Hare.

Newlyweds Susan and Kevin Hare are trying to pick up the pieces after their Columbia neighborhood flooded, with an added twist.

Those were our trees," Kevin Hare said.

A huge chunk of their property itself was simply washed away, leaving just a jagged cliff and empty space when the Rockyford Lake emptied on them as dam after dam upstream collapsed.

"The flood came, which I know is an act of God," Susan said. "But I mean, we had reported this for quite a bit and people were just arguing about who's going to pay for it. ... We are starting to talk with lawyers."

Former federal prosecutor Pete Strom is a lawyer, and he's talking legal action following the flood earlier this month.

"I think everybody is still in shock," Strom said.

Strom's house flooded as the water inundated subdivisions around Lake Katharine and in his own neighborhood of Kings Grant, flooding he blames on the failure of the Semmes Lake Dam on Fort Jackson.

"And every one of these dams, you're going to find, probably, negligence in the way it was designed and or negligence in the way it was maintained," Strom said.

S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control passes the blame for the failed dams in the state.

"Well, I think we can look at Mother Nature being very terrible to us the last couple of weeks," said DHEC spokesman Robert Yanity. "The amount of rainfall we saw just was more than the dams could handle."

DHEC monitors and inspects 2,370 dams across the state, including dozens of them which failed during the October floods. Many of those dams are privately owned and DHEC inspection reports from those dams reveal a mixed bag of maintenance judged "adequate" and "inadequate," and dams in very different conditions, including some with problems dating back years.

In Lexington, a chain reaction failure on Twelve Mile Creek wreaked havoc when the Lexington Mill Pond Dam ruptured and washed over U.S. 1. Up the creek, an inspection in July of the Gibson Pond Dam noted cracks in the spillway and debris blocking it. In the floods, that dam collapsed.

Farther upstream, an inspection in June 2014 at the Barr Lake dam found animal burrows, erosion and cracks sufficient to question its integrity. The dam was judged in "poor" condition. That dam collapsed.

The Lexington Mill Pond Dam itself was flagged for a sinkhole. That dam was being repaired and the pond had been drained at the time of the flooding rains. It was still overwhelmed and failed when the two upstream dams let loose.

However, a 2013 inspection report on Cary's Lake in Columbia found no significant problems and ruled the dam in "good" condition. It ended up damaged – spewing the flood downstream into Forest Acres.

Dam owners are supposed to have emergency action plans filed with DHEC, so federal, state and local responders can access them in emergency situations. DHEC says it won't release those plans because of security concerns.

Meanwhile those 75 dams hit with emergency orders include three dams in Kershaw County, four in Lexington County and 19 in Richland County. Ironically, the safety and integrity of dams is the focus of a research project already underway at USC.

Coming Friday on the WIS news at 5 p.m., WIS checks on the USC project and get the expert's take on what happened with Midlands' dams.

Georgetown County reduces fee for flood-related building permits

[Florence Morning News/SCNow.com](#)

Posted: Thursday, October 29, 2015

GEORGETOWN, S.C. — Building permit fees for flood-related construction will be offered at a reduced rate for at least the next year, Georgetown County Council members have decided. Council approved a temporary 50 percent reduction to building permit fees for all qualifying flood-related projects.

The Georgetown County Building and Zoning Department reminds residents that it is extremely important they obtain the appropriate permits for construction work when making repairs to a flood-damaged home or business. This provides several benefits to property owners, including ensuring structures are properly inspected for safety.

A permit also helps ensure that only licensed contractors are working on your home or business and that the work meets all codes and standards for safety.

"We understand that residents will want to begin repairs and reconstruction as soon as possible, but it's definitely to the property owner's benefit to make sure they take the time to get a permit," said Boyd Johnson, department director. "Also, most insurance companies will require licensed contractors be used and proof that properties passed inspections before they will approve payment for any future claims."

Permits are required by the Building Code, Plumbing Code, Electrical Code and Gas/Mechanical Code. These

codes are adopted as minimum safety standards for properties.

The law requires it. Failure to obtain a permit is a violation of the law and could also prove problematic in settling future homeowner insurance claims, and in selling or refinancing a property later.

The Building and Zoning Department will assess buildings and homes as expeditiously as possible, Johnson said.

Any structure that has been deemed uninhabitable and has had notice posted of such cannot be occupied until the status is changed by the Building and Zoning Department. For information, call (843) 545-3116.

To assist residents with properties deemed uninhabitable by flood damage, the county will allow temporary occupation of mobile structures, such as trailers and recreational vehicles, on properties where flood-related repairs or construction is taking place.

Anyone who has repaired a flood-damaged home without permits or inspections should take corrective action now and apply for a permit.

Determining whether a permit is needed:

Examples of actions that require a building permit include but are not limited to:

- Repair or replacement of water-damaged electrical outlets
- Structural repairs
- Replacement of insulation
- Any repair work dealing with mechanicals located underneath the structure.

Actions that do not require a building permit include:

- Replacing floor coverings
- Painting
- Repairing wall coverings

Demolition work done as a result of flood damage will also not require a permit. However, notify the Georgetown County Assessor's office, (843) 545-3017, prior to total demolition or removal of a structure including mobile homes.

Be aware that any new mobile home will require a mobile home permit prior to placement on site.

If there are any questions regarding whether a permit is needed, contact the Georgetown County Building and Zoning office, (843) 545-3116.

Deadlines approaching to file for disaster aid

[Columbia Regional Business Report](#), Published Oct. 28, 2015

Disaster Unemployment Assistance deadlines are coming up for 19 of the 24 counties which have been declared eligible by **FEMA**.

Deadlines for the 19 counties are all next week, including Nov. 4 for Richland and Lexington counties. The other counties with deadlines are Bamberg, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Clarendon, Colleton, Darlington, Dorchester, Florence, Greenwood, Georgetown, Horry, Kershaw, Lee, Orangeburg, Sumter and Williamsburg.

"We encourage anyone who has lost wages, due to the direct result of the storm, to apply for assistance," said Cheryl Stanton, Department of Employment and Workforce executive director. "Regardless if you are an employee, self-employed or the owner of a small business, this program is designed for you."

In addition, the U.S. Agriculture Department has issued a disaster designation for 29 counties, which makes farm operators in these areas eligible to be considered for certain assistance from the Farm Service Agency, including emergency loans. Among the counties eligible are Aiken, Florence, Lexington, Newberry, Richland and Sumter.

Farmers have eight months from the date of the secretarial disaster declaration to apply. Each application is considered on its own merit, FSA said, taking into account the extent of production losses on the farm and the security and repayment ability of the operator.

The following are county-by-county application filing deadlines for Disaster Unemployment Assistance:

The program makes funds available to assist people who became unemployed as a direct result of the torrential storm and ensuing floods. It also is available to small business owners and the self-employed, including 1099 contract workers, who lost personal income due to the disaster.

One or more the following criteria must be met to qualify for this program:

- Individuals who are unemployed due to the disaster, and do not qualify for regular unemployment insurance benefits.
- Self-employed individuals and small business owners who lost income due to the disaster.
- Individuals who were prevented from working due to an injury caused by the disaster.
- Individuals who have become the major supplier of household income due to the disaster-related death or injury of the previous major supplier of household income.
- Individuals who are unable to reach their job or self-employment location because they must travel through the affected area and are prevented from doing so by the disaster.

- Individuals who were to commence employment or self-employment but were prevented by the disaster.

Flood waters create huge issues for Clarendon County farming industry

By Billie Jean Shaw

[WIS TV](#) 10 NBC Columbia, Oct 29, 2015

COLUMBIA, SC (WIS) - In Alcolu, several residents in the farming industry say they are struggling to make ends meet because of the flood.

Farmers are out of thousands of dollars due to the excessive amount of rain.

Nearly a month after the flood, water has yet to recede in Lee McArthur's 300-acre peanut field.

"We can't even get in the fields to finish what we got right now," McArthur said. "We've bogged down three machines harvesting peanuts because of the wet conditions."

The problem now is he can't harvest his crops because of the rain.

"You see how this just broke off so easily, the rain deteriorated it," McArthur said. "Nothing to gather that nut into our machine and it just falls on the ground."

Now he is out of thousands of dollars.

"You're looking at \$425 a ton," McArthur said. "This is a direct affect to me and it also directly affects people I do business with."

Edward Lavender owns Southern States a farming supply store. He says his business is struggling as well.

"Sales are down probably about half of where we were last year," Lavender said. "We need some help, we need some help. Right now we know it's going to have to come from the federal level but we need some help."

On Nov. 12, the local farmers plan to host a town hall meeting at Weldon Hall with farming organizations that can provide ways for them to get help.

Farmers Get More Bad News At Local Meeting

By Robert Joseph Baker

[Manning \(SC\) Live](#), October 30, 2015

The farmers gathered Oct. 16 at the Barn House Restaurant in Lake City were looking to get some good news on the flooding that caused what state Agriculture Secretary Hugh Weathers estimated is at least \$300 million in damages to row crops.

But good news was not forthcoming at the meeting, which was moderated by East Clarendon High School FFA teacher Bert Beasley.

"You need to call your adjuster first of all before you do anything to your crop," said ArborOne Farm Credit representative Ashley Altman. The company insures farms in seven South Carolina counties, including Clarendon.

"We need your adjuster to look at it before you even attempt to harvest what's left because we don't know what's out there," Altman said.

Clarendon County Clemson Extension Agent Hannah Mickell said Clarendon County farmers will see "almost a total loss, no matter what the crop."

Mickell and other agents were handing out damage assessment report forms to farmers at the Oct. 16 meeting. Holding one of the forms she was handed that night, she said Clarendon's situation is "dire."

"On this form right here, if I was to read it right now, I bet he's lost a few million dollars at least, just this one guy," Mickell said. "I talked to another guy (Oct. 16) who at least lost \$2 million, and he only farms 2,500 to 3,000 acres."

She said soybeans are currently "rotting in the field."

"There's different groups of beans," she said. "Early beans will rot in the field. You couldn't even get out there to harvest them. The late beans will have maturity problems, so they won't mature on time and they will also likely rot in the field."

Peanuts and cotton are in even worse shape, Mickell said. Cotton farmers, she noted, get paid for the seed inside the boll and also the lint, which is the cotton itself.

"Whenever it got so wet, the seed in the cotton boll sprouted, so you can knock out getting paid for that," Mickell said. "The water also weakened the lint's strength, so you're going to have a hard time getting payment for that."

And once the sun came out Oct. 6 after nearly four days of non-stop rain, cotton began "re-growing" where it had already been tragically defoliated.

"And that makes for trashy cotton," Mickell said. "So, now you've got cotton you're not going to get paid seed on, cotton that's just not going to pick well for the lint, rotten cotton and what is there will be tinted or trashy. It's a big mess all the way around."

Clemson Extension Director Dr. Thomas Dobbins said it will be "several months before we know the extent of

the total damage across the state.”

Meherrin spokesman Randal Morris said that’s why farmers should heed Altman’s advice and get with insurance adjusters as soon as possible.

“Document profitability and expense,” he said.

Representatives from both offices for U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn and U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham said it will take a literal “act of Congress” for South Carolina farmers to get federal aid that doesn’t consist of more loans.

“And any bill that could possibly get through to help you, it would likely be until January until that would even be possible,” said Graham Pee Dee District Director Celia Urquhart.

“When Hurricane Sandy happened to New Jersey, it was about this same time,” Urquhart said. “It was about January or February until they had some federal aid through Congress.”

Urquhart fielded a farmer’s question about Graham’s rejection of aid to Hurricane Sandy victims.

“It was a \$61 billion bill,” Urquhart said. “And \$21 billion of it was completely not related to Sandy relief. It was pork. Sen. Graham will have a clean bill to help South Carolina with funds dedicated solely to relief where it’s needed most.”

Clyburn’s representative, Kenneth Barnes, said the state’s legislative delegation will have a hard time getting any aid bills passed for the beleaguered state.

“Our legislative delegation is a small size,” he said. “And when they try to get stuff for farmers, you have states that don’t do a lot of farming, and those representatives and senators don’t understand.”

Barnes urged farmers to document their losses not only by registering with insurance companies, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the **Federal Emergency Management Agency** and other organizations, but also by photographing damaged crops, equipment and infrastructure.

“We need those pictures,” Barnes said. “We need those pictures to show in Washington, D.C., to those who don’t understand.”

Cag Brunson of Oak 3 Farms in Summerton is one farmer worried about recouping losses from damaged produce, which he said isn’t typically insured against flood or weather issues.

“Produce is a crop that you don’t really have insurance on,” he said. “You can insure row crops, like what we have here: soybeans, corn and wheat. Those losses don’t bother me as much, because you can insure them.”

Mikell said farmers register their crops with the Farm Service Agency, and then insure against losses like the recent flood.

“So, let’s say they’re going to grow 1,000 acres of cotton; they would go and register that, and then insure say up to 75 percent,” she said. “So, when something terrible happens to that crop and you can’t use it, you’re hopeful that your insurer will declare it a total loss and at least pay so you can break even.”

Mickell said the insurance payment, if granted, would not cover “cost of living or paying workers or subcontractors.”

“It would literally just help you break even,” she said. “And we’ve got a lot of farmers in that situation right now, just hoping to break even.”

Harry DuRant of Double D Farms said his wife told him the yard at their farm was filling with water about 2 a.m. Oct. 4, about the time deputies in Clarendon County began evacuating Summerton residents inundated by flood waters.

“I looked at our digital rain gauge and it zeroes out at 12 o’clock. It was on its way to 16 inches in one day, though I didn’t know that at the time,” DuRant said.

DuRant tried that Sunday morning to get around neighborhoods surrounding his farm, but found roads impassable to due standing water or washouts.

“We realized it just wouldn’t be safe for people to be out,” he said. “Sunday it rained all day. Monday it rained all day. It wasn’t until Tuesday that we saw the sunshine.”

DuRant said his gauge ultimately showed 27 inches of rain fell in Clarendon County.

“I’ve seen reports of 20 inches, but I had 27, and I’m not the only one to report that,” he said. “I have a cousin with a gauge like mine, and he had 27 inches of rain. I know another guy who also reported 27 inches of rain.”

Brunson said, as a young farmer, he never expected anything like the rains that destroyed his crops in early October.

“The governor said it was a 1,000-year storm,” he said. “I hope she’s right. I hope we never see anything like this again.”

South Carolina farmers are asked to fill out the Clemson Extension damage assessment report.

The damage assessment report is below.

Flood leaves Forence County residents fighting mosquitoes, what the county plans to do

about it

By Taylor Herlong

WBTW News 13, Myrtle Beach CBS, October 29, 2015

FLORENCE COUNTY, SC (WBTW) – Many of you have asked News 13 what Florence County plans to do about the mosquitoes swarming the area now that the flood waters are gone. Many residents say they're so bad, they don't want to step outside of their homes.

Thursday, Florence County Environmental Control crews were out spraying the area, and they admitted there is a big problem.

At Dollar General in Effingham, insect repellent is flying off the shelves.

Tina Langston says she's had customers complain about the bugs for the last three weeks, and she can't keep bug spray in stock.

"We have like tripled our sales in bug spray," said Langston.

Now, residents like John Webb are starting to complain.

"The last few weeks, the mosquitoes have been horrible," said Webb.

Webb says since the flood waters came through Florence County, bugs have been swarming his yard.

"There are so many mosquitoes you can barely even come outside without them biting you," said Webb.

This time in 2013, Florence County Environmental Control says they had three complaints about the bugs. In 2014, that increased to 26 complaints. Now, after this year's flood, the county's received 287 mosquito complaints so far.

Florence County Environmental Control says the best advice they can give residents is to stay patient, wear long-sleeved clothing, and apply bug spray periodically."

For Webb, that answer isn't good enough.

"That is just two things I will not do. I don't like long sleeves, and I hate bug spray," said Webb.

Crews were able to spray for mosquitoes Thursday but say the last few weeks, they haven't been able to.

In order for crews to go out, it must be late in the afternoon, where people are not around, when the temperature is above 65 degrees, and it's not raining.

Florence County Environmental Control says for now they are still fully funded by the county, but with the large number of calls they're worried they will soon run out of money.

Environmental Control's Herbie Christmas says they're meeting with **FEMA** to see if any funding is available.

Bee-farmer in-Berkeley County concerned about mosquito-spraying

By Raymond Owens

WCBF News 2 NBC Charleston, October 29, 2015

Some Berkeley County beekeepers are worried that the recent flooding could mean the death of their bees.

"Right here, particularly, we just raise honey off them. We have like 14 different farms that we set the honeybees on for pollination of the crops, vegetables and different things like that." Eugene Rice is the owner of Rice's Bee Farm in St. Stephen.

Rice and his wife, father and son have 250 bee hives in Berkeley County. They are worried about how the recent flood waters may impact their bees.

Jeff Cary is the manager of Berkeley County's mosquito abatement department. "We have had, following this thousand year rain event, a countywide hatch off of flood water species."

Bottom line, the additional water means lots of new mosquitos in Berkeley County. "It's reached a point where we cannot provide a level of control with trucks, so we are going into the air and putting in aircraft to help our citizens."

That concerns Rice. "What they are intending on spraying will kill the mosquitoes, but will also kill honeybees." So the Rice family talked with Cary, and told them what spraying their hives would mean to them. "It's devastating. It's something we've been doing for 50 years. My father, myself and my wife, we work with the bees daily."

Cary said they are working to help fix the issue. "If we can map out the area when we spray by air we will. We will avoid where the hives are, especially if they're located at a farm that is isolated from the population."

Rice believes the stakes, if there is a mistake, are high. "You're going to kill something that keeps you alive. It produces food for you. Yes, you're going to kill the mosquitos, but you're also going to kill the honeybees. It's just it's hard to get them back. They have enough struggles as it is."

Look up the next spray schedule at the county website link below.

<https://www.berkeleycountysc.gov/drupal/mosquito-spray-schedule>

Lexington's Old Mill Is Almost Completely Re-Opened

By Sonia Gutierrez

[WLTX 19](#), Columbia CBS, October 29, 2015

Lexington, SC (WLTX)- Lexington's Old Mill was hit hard by the flooding earlier this month, but most of the businesses have now reopened.

You might remember the three dams that breached one right into the other in that area, causing a destructive flow of water to the Old Mill.

There's close to 20 businesses there, including a hair salon that re-opened just two days ago.

Kelly Clinger, one of the owners of Old Mill Brewpub, says they were closed for over two weeks. "It's a long time when you're in the restaurant business not to have any income coming in and stuff," she said. "That was our goal to work as hard as we needed to get it open as quickly as possible."

The main part of the foundation was washed away and the concrete where some of the brewery equipment sits is still drying out.

"On the other side of this deck our screen and porch was washed away, which held our beer cooler of all of the beer that we brew here on site which was a total of 31 kegs of beer. We did get a call from the police station saying that someone had turned 3 of those in so we lost 28," said Clinger.

Most of the downstairs businesses were completely destroyed except for the chiropractor, who was almost untouched, and the Creekside Restaurant, which is now open.

Rainy Day Books is moving upstairs and Kevin Thumpston, Pastor at Watershed Fellowship church, says they're hoping to re-open within three weeks. "We just have to build his book shelves and right now we're trying to raise money to help with that" Thumpston says if anyone is interested in donating they can reach out to him.

Service for Watershed Fellowship has been moved elsewhere until they open closer to the end of the year. Thumpston says he feels blessed to be a part of a community that has really pulled together to help.

"It was humbling because typically we're the ones that are wanting to give out and care and to serve so to be the recipient of all that was a huge blessing" said Thumpston.

A Local Business Owner has a Huge Sale to Recover from SC Flood

By Alicia Barnes

[WOLO ABC](#) Columbia, Oct. 29, 2015

Columbia, SC (WOLO) -- A local business is having a huge sale to recover from the SC Flood. Owner of Coplon's, Bruce Greenberg says it's a Flash Sale and customers will see discounts up to 90% from high end designers like Jimmy Choo.

The sale starts Friday, October 30, 2015 at 11 am at 1350 Main Street in downtown Columbia.

A portion of the proceeds will go to the Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. The sale ends November 8, or while inventory lasts.

Flood relief fundraiser to assist non-profits off to strong start

By Mike DeSumma

[WIS TV 10](#) NBC Columbia, Oct 29, 2015

Leaders in Columbia along with several others around say so far their flood relief fundraising effort is doing very well.

Nearly \$500,000 has already come in, according to the Central Carolina Community Foundation.

The foundation will be the one that is going to be managing the money and steering it to non-profit organizations that can put it to use in their relief efforts. Starting in November, non-profits will have the ability to start applying for grants from the fund.

On Wednesday, Columbia Mayor Steven Benjamin and other said the goal now is to drive support for the campaign as much as possible.

They expect that victims of the flood will continue to need help, even months and years later.

"We don't know all of the answers," said JoAnn Turnquist of the Central Carolina Community Foundation. "We don't know where the areas that are hardest hit need help. We're not certain yet what non-profit organizations can best address those needs. But we will be working towards that."

For more information on how you can help, [click here](#).

Mayors urge public to donate to flood relief fund

The mayors of Richland and Lexington counties, as well as those from Sumter and Camden, joined Thursday to urge public support for flood relief efforts.

Speaking at Columbia's Riverfront Park, just yards away from the Columbia Canal breach during this month's historic flood, the mayors spoke out for Central Carolina Community Foundation's S.C. Flood Relief Fund. The nonprofit's fund gives 100% of all donations to local, nonprofit organizations providing Midlands flood relief.

In addition, the Lipscomb family – a longtime foundation partner – will match all gifts to the fund up to \$100,000, Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin said.

"The Thousand-Year Flood destroyed roads and bridges, breached dams and washed away homes across the Midlands and beyond leaving countless families displaced," Benjamin said. "The waters didn't care if you lived in Columbia, Forest Acres or Cayce, Richland County or Lexington and it's going to take all of us coming together as one community if we're ever going to truly recover."

Said Cayce Mayor Elise Partin, "It's important that as mayors we stand together on the rebuilding process, because we are one region. We work, live, play and shop in all parts of the Midlands, and as a forum of mayors from cities across this region, we speak with one voice in asking for individuals and businesses to recognize the long-term needs that affect us as a whole – and to help make a difference."

Phase I grants, which will fund relief and recovery assistance programs, will begin next week for 501c3 nonprofit organizations or those with a 501c3 fiscal agent. These organizations may request up to \$25,000 through a request for proposal, the foundation said. Preference will be given to applicant organizations in **FEMA**-declared disaster areas, it noted.

Community Foundation Board of Trustees members and an advisory committee consisting of both community members and those of the Regional Mayors Forum will form the review committee. Foundation partners have provided an additional \$400,000 in specific grants for relief.

Columbia area mayors unite to lead flood recovery efforts

By Allen Wallace

[Columbia Daily](#), October 30, 2015

Six mayors stood together beside the Columbia Canal Friday. Other elected leaders joined them. They represented different communities in different counties, but all shared one purpose. All have constituents affected by the recent floods, and as Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin said, "We're here to make sure they get the help they need."

Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin speaking Friday, backed by other leaders including fellow members of the Regional Mayors Forum (photo by Allen Wallace)

Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin speaking Friday, backed by other leaders including fellow members of the Regional Mayors Forum (photo by Allen Wallace)

The group included members of the Regional Mayors Forum, a collaborative group of all mayors in Richland and Lexington Counties, plus Sumter and Camden. The group exists to address the shared goals of the entire area, goals such as flood recovery.

Mayor Pro Tem Curtis Rye of Forest Acres said his city has seen how much help from the wider community can mean after the death of Officer Greg Alia and then the floods, which hit the city harder than most others.

"Forest Acres' crisis began a few days before the flood. Immediately, Forest Acres had help," he said. "We're all in this thing together. We hope we'll be in position, when we have another crisis, to reach out to y'all."

Cayce Mayor Elise Partin praised the efforts to this point to help those in need. "We sit in awe, reverence and appreciation for the speed and intensity with which people and churches and civic groups and neighbors rushed to help during and in the aftermath of the floods," she said.

Benjamin echoed the praise, but added "We've only just begun. We've got to raise a lot more money to help a lot more people."

The leaders asked that people donate to the S.C. Flood Relief Fund at Central Carolina Community Foundation, where 100% of donations go directly to local, non-profit organizations providing flood relief in Midlands. The Lipscomb Family Foundation will match donations to the fund up to \$100,000 beginning Thursday.

"There are pockets of need, but the pockets are great, said Central Carolina Community Foundation President and CEO JoAnn Turnquist. "We can't do this alone. We need everyone's help."

"Our fund is to be used for those folks who want to help but are unsure how to deploy their dollars," Turnquist said. The Foundation will only accept financial donations. Turnquist recommended the United Way and Red Cross for those who want to donate goods or serve as volunteers.

Benjamin said the recovery will take years, and unity is the key to success. "There's not a river that divides

Richland County and Lexington County. There's a bridge that connects us," he said. "As long as we breathe, we hope."

Mayors, Town Leaders Urge Residents to Give to Flood Fund

By Chris Trainor

[Columbia Free Times](#), October 29, 2015

A group of mayors and leaders from Midlands cities and counties gathered Thursday at the Columbia Canal to implore residents to give to the South Carolina Flood Relief Fund through the Central Carolina Community Foundation.

Those present at Thursday's gathering included Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin, Cayce Mayor Elise Partin, Springdale Mayor Michael Bishop, Lexington County Council Chairman Johnny Jeffcoat and Central Carolina Community Foundation President JoAnn Turnquist, among several others.

The CCCF has emerged as a conduit for donations for flood victims. The organization notes that there are many people in the Midlands that are still in "severe crisis" because of the 1,000-year flood earlier this month.

"Earlier this month, the people of this community witnessed a 1,000-year flood that destroyed roads and bridges, breached dams and washed away homes across the Midlands," Benjamin said. "Beyond leaving countless families displaced, in the midst of that unthinkable tragedy and trauma, something very special happened. In every corner of this great city, across this great region and across this great state, people who had every reason to collapse under the weight of this great flood somehow found the strength to stand. That strength has borne hope."

Benjamin said those who wish to give monetary donations toward helping Midlands residents recover from the flood should do so through the CCCF.

Partin said some people may think, because they are personally now OK after the flood, everyone else is, too. That is not the case.

"The waters have receded," Partin said. "A lot of people, most people, have gone back to a sense of normalcy. And yet, there are still people living somewhere other than their houses. Family photos showing a lifetime of memories are gone. Favorite teddy bears are destroyed. ... We are blessed that the storm didn't devastate our entire economy and so much of our landscape in totality, or even in wide swaths, like so many other storms. But it's almost worse this way, because of the stark pockets of devastation and upheaval in the midst of a return to normalcy. It makes it too easy to forget the need."

Turnquist agreed with Partin, noting there are "pockets of need" across the Midlands, but those affected within those pockets have tremendous needs and face a long recovery. Turnquist says CCCF is working toward connecting with all of the appropriate nonprofits to identify those pockets of need.

"With the help and input of the regional mayors, and with folks from across those hard-hit counties, we will have eyes on the street," Turnquist said. "We will have direct knowledge. We will know the constituents that are still hurting. And we can deploy the dollars that are so generously given, to ensure the nonprofits are doing the work to rebuild our communities."

Benjamin says there is no fundraising "goal" for the S.C. Flood Relief Fund. He said leaders are hoping to raise as much money as possible, knowing the needs will likely still outpace how much is raised.

Turnquist said the S.C. Flood Relief Fund has raised about \$500,000 in donations so far. In addition, CCCF has secured two \$125,000 grants for the cause.

Also Thursday, Benjamin announced that the Lipscomb Family Foundation has agreed to match any donations to the S.C. Flood Relief Fund, up to \$100,000.

To make a donation toward flood relief, visit www.yourfoundation.org/SCFloodRelief. All of the donations will go directly to local nonprofits providing flood relief in the Midlands.

Flood relief fund to help SC on road to recovery

By Leah Holloway

[WACH Fox 57](#), Columbia, October 29th 2015

COLUMBIA, SC (WACH)-Mayors from flood affected counties are taking the next step in helping South Carolina on the road to recovery by giving back to the SC Flood Relief Fund

Leaders have are learning from other areas that have experienced major flooding in the past. The relief fund is only the first step in the process to rebuild flood affected areas.

"We don't know all of the answers we don't know where the hardest hit areas are, what non-profits can best address those needs, but we will be working towards that", says JoAnn Turnquist of the Central Carolina Community Foundation.

100% of the donations will go towards non-profit organizations providing flood relief in the Midlands. There is

no estimate on when the money raised by this fund will start being funneled into recovery projects.

If you would like to donate to the flood relief fund and give back to those who were affected click [here](#).

Midlands mayors ask for flood relief donations

By Jane Moon Dail

[The State \(Columbia\)](#), Oct. 29, 2015

Highlights

Officials encourage support for flood relief fund

Foundation giving \$100,000 in matching funds

Area public officials met in front of the Columbia Canal Breach Thursday afternoon, which served as a sobering reminder that many in their communities still need help recovering from the Oct. 4 floods.

Members of the Regional Mayors Forum, made up of mayors from around the Midlands, voiced their support for Central Carolina Community Foundation's S.C. Flood Relief Fund. The foundation serves 11 Midlands counties.

The fund so far has raised about \$500,000 and secured another \$250,000 in grants, according to foundation president and CEO JoAnn Turnquist.

Turnquist said her organization will accept applications from nonprofits for grants up to \$25,000 starting Monday.

"We can deploy the dollars that are so generously given to ensure the nonprofits are doing the work to rebuild our communities quickly and efficiently," Turnquist said.

Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin announced the Lipscomb Family Foundation will match up to \$100,000 to the S.C. Flood Relief Fund.

Cayce Mayor Elise Partin said because many people's lives have returned to normal, it can be easy to forget those still in need.

"The waters have receded now, and a lot of people ... have gone back to a sense of normalcy," she said. "Yet there are still people living in somewhere other than their houses."

Forest Acres Mayor Pro Tem Curtis Rye said his city's crisis started a few days before the flood when one of its police officers was killed in the line of duty. He said people from around the Midlands rallied around Forest Acres, and he hopes to see that continued camaraderie through the S.C. Flood Relief Fund.

"We've seen such help from our community," Rye said. "And when I say community, I don't mean just Forest Acres."

Benjamin said it could take years to fully recover, and the fund is one way to ensure it does happen.

"It's going to take all of us to come together as one great community if we're ever going to truly recover," he said.

S.C. Flood Relief Fund

To learn more about the fund or to donate, visit www.yourfoundation.org/SCFloodRelief.

Those seeking help or who want to find out ways to help can call the Columbia Area Relief Effort (CARE) hotline at (866) 272-1976.

Lexington Police Deliver Supplies for Flood Victims

By Crysty Vaughan

[WOLO ABC](#) Columbia, Oct. 29, 2015

COLUMBIA, SC (WOLO)--The Lexington Police Department is helping flood victims in the midlands.

Today the Department delivered much needed school supplies and flood supplies to Lexington Elementary and other organizations.

It's all part of the fill the M-RAP campaign.

The event is designed to fill the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicle from top to bottom with items the victims need.

Main Road improvements project underway

Joint agency operation meant to improve travel and alleviate potential flooding

[WCBD](#) News 2 Charleston, Oct. 29, 2015

PRESS RELEASE – Charleston County and the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) will begin the Main Road Improvements project on Thursday, Oct. 29. Citizens can expect to see nighttime lane closures during the two week operation, weather permitting. The purpose of the project is to improve travel at Main Road and U.S. 17 (Savannah Highway) and raise portions of Main Road to alleviate potential flooding.

•A traffic shift will be utilized on Friday, Oct. 30 starting at 9:00 a.m. to allow crews space to remove temporary wall along Main Road.

•Nighttime lane closures on Main Road between the Limehouse Bridge and U.S. 17, will occur 9:00 p.m. to 6 a.m. beginning Sunday night November 1. The lane closures are expected to last two weeks, weather permitting.

The project will include the following improvements:

•Widening of the road, six feet on each side, from the railroad overpass to approximately Morse Avenue. This additional width will allow for an additional lane off of Johns Island to be established with traffic barrels during an evacuation event.

•Adding an additional five inches of asphalt between Morse Avenue and Old Charleston Highway (the section of road that recently flooded).

•Resurfacing a section from the Limehouse Bridge to U.S.17.

Improvements to the intersection at Old Charleston Highway including:

•Installation of a right turn lane from Main Road onto Old Charleston Highway headed toward Charleston.

•Installation of a left turn lane from Main Road onto Old Charleston Highway headed toward Savannah.

•Installation of a left turn lane from Main Road into the Bojangles driveway.

•Installation of two concrete islands to establish right turns only from Old Charleston Highway onto Main Road.

The project is funded by the SCDOT and the Charleston County Transportation Sales Tax program. Anyone with questions about the project can call Charleston County's Transportation Development Department at (843) 202-6140.

Spot flooding might occur through weekend

Bo Petersen

[Post and Courier](#), Charleston, Oct. 29, 2015

Midday flood tides could persist through Saturday and possibly Sunday at the 7-foot level — high enough to flood some downtown streets, forecasters said Thursday.

But night tides have receded below that point and both tides are pulling back after a week of extreme flooding.

The wind shifted to come out of the north on Thursday, helping to keep the tides elevated, said meteorologist Bob Bright, National Weather Service, Charleston. "By Sunday the winds shift around to the south," he said, and the tides will drop closer to normal.

The flooding came partly as a result of the winds and gravitational pull of a perigee moon, or the moon coming close to earth in its orbit. The next perigee full-moon cycle occurs Thanksgiving week.

Meanwhile, the flooding helped bring about two significant tech advances:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric researchers at its coastal management office in North Charleston used the flooding to test the accuracy of a new sea-rise flooding forecast model and found it was accurate to a surprisingly local scale. The model is already being used to forecast El Nino high water levels on the West Coast and is now being considered as a planning tool to identify vulnerable low-lying areas, said Doug Marcy, coastal hazards specialist.

Sea Grant programs in South Carolina and Georgia joined in a multi-group effort from the Florida Keys to Virginia to document hyper-local flooded spots using a smartphone app developed by Wetlands Watch.

The data produced will have two applications — to improve emergency management and public works response in spots that had not been considered vulnerable, and to improve computer models predicting flood, said Mark Risse, of the Georgia program, and University of South Carolina geography Prof. Kristen Dow, who worked with the South Carolina program.

Existing models have tended to be "bathtub models" forecasting the rise as a single pool, Dow said. "This allows you to see how water actually moves. You can identify trouble spots where nobody understood it was happening."

Postal carrier says he broke leg in Crosby's dock collapse

by Prentiss Findlay

[Charleston Post and Courier](#), Oct. 29, 2015

People should inspect their docks to ensure they are safe in the wake of the extreme tidal flooding that hit the area this month, Charleston County Councilman Elliott Summey said Thursday.

There are more than 6,000 permitted docks in Charleston County, said Jim Beasley, spokesman for the state Department of Health and Environmental Control.

Record rains and flooding associated with Hurricane Joaquin battered the Lowcountry in early October. This week, near-record 8-foot king tides caused more flooding and hammered erosion-plagued Folly Beach which has lost at least 400,000 cubic yards of sand this month. That is 25 percent of the \$30 million beach renourishment project completed last year, officials said.

Near Folly Beach, the collapse of a dock at Crosby's Fish and Shrimp on Wednesday night is likely related to the extreme tides, Summey said.

"Common sense tells me when something like that (high waters) happens it loosens things up. They're (docks)

not built to withstand the kind of pressure they've been getting," he said.

Owners are responsible for ensuring their docks are safe, Summey said.

"The county does not go out and certify docks," he said.

John O'Connell, 57, of Wilmington, Mass., said that he suffered a broken leg when the dock broke. He was attending a business function with his wife who worked for a company he did not want to identify.

"We heard like a crack and we all looked at each other and we were like, 'What was that?' No sooner did we look at each other than crash, right down," he said.

"I went into the water and under the water. I came back up and fortunately I was still on some of the pier that was under the water."

Twenty of those in attendance who went in the water were put on a bus for transport to either Medical University or Roper hospitals. O'Connell said he went to Roper where he learned he had a broken leg.

About 40 people were on the dock when it broke, he said.

"I'm going to be out of work for six weeks. I'm a letter carrier. It didn't go over well when I told my supervisor, but what can you do?" he said.

New dock construction in Folly Beach requires a DHEC permit and a city permit. Once the work is finished, the city inspects and approves it. Commercial docks are re-inspected annually, said Eric Lutz, the city interim director of building, facilities and public works.

DHEC issues permits for dock location and size in environmentally sensitive coastal areas, but it does not regulate construction. A DHEC permit will be needed to fix the Crosby's dock, Beasley said.

"Although we have not been contacted by this dock's owner, we performed an initial assessment at the scene earlier today. No formal request for repair authorization has been initiated by the owner at this time," Beasley said. The results of the initial assessment were not available Thursday.

Dock construction standards are within the purview of local buildings codes and ordinances, he said.

Commercial docks that are not marinas are not required to be inspected on a regular basis. Hiring a licensed marine contractor is required if a dock costs more than \$5,000, Beasley said.

Officials said no one was seriously injured in the dock collapse.

The dock at Crosby's is on tidal waters in unincorporated Charleston County next to Folly Road. A spokesman for the owners said Wednesday night that the cause of the collapse had not been determined.

"Many events are held on this dock. Both the dock and pilings are regularly inspected," said Ellen Schmedinghoff.

Insurance adjusters and their local teams are scheduled to inspect the dock in the immediate future, she said.

Regular inspections have been done by family members who are familiar with the installation of pilings and the building of docks. The family often replaces their own pilings and handles their own repairs, she said.

"The last pile replacement (of over 20 pilings) was done by a local contractor in recent months," she said.

Absolute Charleston was the event coordinator at the Crosby's dock, according to a Charleston County Sheriff's Office incident report, which said that the county EMS treated victims at the scene but did not transport anyone to the hospital. Absolute Charleston did not respond Thursday to a request for comment.

Michael Murray, owner of American Dock and Marine on Folly Road, said he had been fielding calls from dock owners about damage linked to the extremely high tides,

"A lot of people don't check their docks on a regular basis," he said.

Murray said he had seen pictures in the newspaper of the collapsed dock at Crosby's but declined to speculate on a specific cause. Many factors could be involved, he said.

"Who knows? Were they jumping up and down? Dancing? Was everybody crowded around in one spot? That dock has done well for however long its been there," he said.

"It will probably come out that there is a litany of things that kind of led up to it," he said.

A private party was being held on the dock when the accident happened. Crosby's is a local seafood retailer with a shrimp boat dock and small fishing pier where the accident happened. The family has owned and operated the pier since 1974. It has been a special events venue in the evenings.

Local fishermen initially responded to help those in the water. Two guests had reported minor injuries, Schmedinghoff said.

Dozens of emergency responders, including police, fire and rescue divers, worked the scene of the collapsed dock. Officials double-checked to make sure nobody was trapped under the pier.

The Crosby family is deeply upset by the accident, Schmedinghoff said Wednesday night.

Crosby's was closed Thursday. The seafood shop at Crosby's will be open Friday, but the fishing pier will remain closed. Crosby's weekly Friday Night Fish Fry will be postponed this week.

Dock builders seeing increase in repairs following weather events

By Karina Bolster

WCSC Charleston CBS, Oct. 29, 2015

CHARLESTON COUNTY, SC (WCSC) - A spokesperson for Crosby's Fish and Shrimp on Folly Road said the business will open back up Friday morning after their dock collapsed Wednesday evening.

Two people suffered minor scrapes and bruises, but nothing serious from the accident.

The cause of the collapse is still unknown.

Professionals have been dealing with many repairs lately from the recent flooding that could have created damage to several docks in the Lowcountry.

They said some of the damage has been caused by the weather events over the past month.

"The extremely high tides with the flood waters has caused a lot of damage with floating docks," said Jason Jones, owner of Imperial Docks by Design. "Older docks mainly so that's the repair work that we're seeing."

While there isn't a mandatory time period for when docks should be repaired, experts say it's important to do routine checks.

"Preserving your dock is like preserving your car," said Brian Lepak, General Manager with Decks & Docks Lumber Company. "You want to have preventive maintenance. You change the oil in your car every 3,000 miles, you need to do something with your deck and dock every year."

According to the Department of Health and Environmental Control you shouldn't have to make major repairs for 15 years, unless Mother Nature gets in the way.

"When Mother Nature comes into effect she does what she wants to do," Lepak said. "She's going to twist and turn every dock. It just depends on the way it's built. There are products out there that can help the product survive."

For the Charleston area, DHEC says repairs could happen sooner for those built on the Harbor or Intracoastal Waterways.

As for older docks, maintenance should be a high priority.

Some people in Charleston say they've noticed creaking while out on the dock at Crosby's Fish and Shrimp on Folly Road.

Experts say it's hard to determine exactly what happened by just looking at it.

"Obviously I've seen it like many people from the side of the road," Jones said. "I think it is an older structure, they're going to be more susceptible to having problems in this type of situation."

Jones said the most common problem they see in older decks are the worms.

"[They're] probably the biggest enemy to the wooden pilings," Jones added. "They actually eat the wood and compromise the structure. It's just something you have to stay on top of."

A spokesperson for the restaurant said they still don't know what caused the collapse, but that the dock and the pilings are inspected regularly.

A statement from the company released today reads:

"The seafood shop at Crosby's Fish & Shrimp will be open for business on Friday, October 30, but the fishing pier will remain closed. Crosby's weekly Friday Night Fish Fry will be postponed this week.

The dock at Crosby's is inspected regularly, but insurance adjusters and their local teams are scheduled to inspect the dock in the immediate future.

The Crosby family extends their gratitude to the community. They are especially thankful for the numerous emergency response teams for their speedy and diligent work following the incident on the evening of October 28th.

Only two minor injuries were sustained during the dock collapse. Everyone that fell into the water visited the hospital as a precautionary measure. As scheduled, the entire group returned to their respective homes across the country, and they were all in good health.

Details regarding reopening of the fishing pier and the Friday Night Fish Fry will be posted on the Crosby's Fish & Shrimp Facebook page."

Charleston County also released a statement today regarding the incident at Crosby's.

A statement from Charleston County reads:

"We have received a number of inquiries related to last night's incident. We still continue to gather information but here's what we have so far.

In 1987, the City of Folly Beach annexed a significant amount of marsh area adjacent to the Island. The official annexation documents describe creeks, marsh and tributaries. This annexation included all of the marsh area surrounding Crosby's Seafood. The marsh area is located below the DHEC-OCRM Critical Line. The area above the OCRM Critical line is considered highland. The Crosby's Seafood building and parking area is on the highland and is within the jurisdiction of Charleston County. All structures outside of the Critical Line must be permitted by OCRM.

We will continue to work with the City of Folly Beach to further look into this matter and provide more information once it's available."

Erosion Worsens Flooding For Cherry Grove Neighborhoods

By Amy Lipman

WMBF-TV Myrtle Beach (SC), October 30, 2015

CHERRY GROVE, SC (WMBF) – The recent high tides have left beaches in Cherry Grove even more eroded than they already were after the storms earlier in the month, said Pat Dowling, spokesperson for North Myrtle Beach. If the dunes were intact, neighborhoods along the marsh wouldn't flood.

Sylvia Yard has lived in Cherry Grove for seven years. She said the monthly flooding from high tide is typically minimal and doesn't last very long.

"Nothing like what we've been having lately," Yard said. "It's been under the house, It makes a mess."

She said she's frustrated with the frequency of the flooding.

"We've about had it," Yard said. "We're saying enough is enough already. Dry us out."

The flooding is also inconveniencing Timothy Mark Smith, who has had to park his car at a motel because the road has been flooded. Even at low tide Thursday, inches of water covered the street.

"When it comes up like this, it stays here for at least six hours, so we're without road access for 12 hours a day when this happens," Smith said.

Dowling said there are drainage problems throughout the city right now with the extra high tides.

"It will take time for some areas to go down," he said. "The tides will be with us in gradually diminishing heights through the weekend."

North Myrtle Beach is also working to get beach renourishment funds to decrease the erosion.

The next federal renourishment is scheduled for 2018, but due to the extreme erosion, North Myrtle Beach is looking to secure emergency funding from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The city is figuring out at how much of the Corps emergency fund has been spent already and if there is any money left to fund renourishment. **FEMA** won't cover the renourishment, Dowling said.

North Myrtle Beach is also working with Horry County and Myrtle Beach to try to get funding for the Grand Strand-wide renourishment sooner than three years from now.

Beach renourishment is expensive. Dowling said it cost \$10 million dollars between federal, state and city funds to renourish North Myrtle Beach back in 2008.

However, Dowling said that's a necessary cost.

"If we do not renourish our beaches along the Grand Strand on a regular basis, the dune systems will fail and structures located on the oceanfront will ultimately fail," he said. "As importantly, we all make our livelihoods either directly or indirectly from the tourism industry, and the beach is by far the number one attraction for visitors."

TV/Radio Clips



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA. on WFXB \(FOX\) - Myrtle Beach, SC](#)

10/29/2015 07:36:30

Fox Morning News (News)

... helped in more than 320 cases in Florence County alone. A mobile FEMA disaster recovery center is now open in Conway. It's in the parking lot of the Horry County Government and Justice Center ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA. on WFXB \(FOX\) - Myrtle Beach, SC](#)

10/29/2015 07:37:33

Fox Morning News (News)

... the state recover from the flooding. FEMA is expected to pay for 75-percent of the cost of the 41-hundred national guard members called up to help during and after the storm. ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA. on WIS - COL \(NBC\) - Columbia, SC](#)

10/29/2015 07:57:38

Today (News)

... officials from richland county, the city of columbia, and FEMA will be at an open house today from 5:30 to 7:30 at the lower richland high school auditorium. ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA on WBTW \(CBS\) - Myrtle Beach, SC](#)

10/29/2015 07:57:45

CBS This Morning (News)

... and channel 1215 on time warner cable. a mobile FEMA disaster recovery center opened yesterday in conway. it's in the parking lot of the horry county government and justice center ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA. on WACH - COL \(FOX\) - Columbia, SC](#)

10/29/2015 08:11:37

WACH Fox Good Day (News)

... less than \$10,000. >> and now is the time to apply for FEMA relief if you need some help. the FEMA hotline is on your screen: officials say even if you doubt ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA on WFXB \(FOX\) - Myrtle Beach, SC](#)

10/29/2015 08:36:52

Fox Morning News (News)

... helped in more than 320 cases in florence county alone. a mobile FEMA disaster recovery center is now open in conway. it's in the parking lot of the horry county government and justice center ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA. on WFXB \(FOX\) - Myrtle Beach, SC](#)

10/29/2015 08:37:55

Fox Morning News (News)

... the state rer from the flooding. FEMA is expected to pay for 75-percent of the cost of the 41-hundred national guard members called up to help during and after the storm. ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA on WIS - COL \(NBC\) - Columbia, SC](#)

10/29/2015 08:58:36

Today (News)

... representatives from richland county, the city of columbia and FEMA will be at an open house today from 5:30 to 7:30 at the lower richland high school auditorium. ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA. on WBTW \(CBS\) - Myrtle Beach, SC](#)

10/29/2015 12:06:37

News 13 at Noon (News)

... helped in more than 320 cases in florence county alone. a mobile FEMA disaster recovery center opened yesterday in conway. it's in the parking lot of the horry county government and ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[Federal Emergency Management Agency on WSPA \(CBS\) - Greenville, SC](#)

10/29/2015 12:07:08

7 On Your Side at Noon (News)

... during the historic flooding in south carolina. the Federal Emergency Management Agency may not pay to fix them according to "the state" newspaper. "FEMA" may pay to restore public roads across ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA. on WIS - COL \(NBC\) - Columbia, SC](#)

10/29/2015 12:27:05

WIS News 10 Midday (News)

... representatives from richland county, the city of columbia and FEMA will be at an open house today from 5:30 to 7:30 at the lower richland high school auditorium. ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[Federal Emergency Management Agency on WOLO- COL \(ABC\) - Columbia, SC](#)

10/29/2015 12:37:22

ABC Columbia News at Noon (News)

... options include borrowing or using state surpluses. the Federal Emergency Management Agency is expected to pick up 75% of the expenses accrued by the national guard during their flood assistance. ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA on WOLO- COL \(ABC\) - Columbia, SC](#)

10/29/2015 12:38:51

ABC Columbia News at Noon (News)

... speak with county and city officials and representatives with FEMA. information will be available about rebuilding damaged structures and insurance. the event will take place at ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA. on WIS - COL \(NBC\) - Columbia, SC](#)

10/29/2015 16:07:10

WIS News 10 at 4PM (News)

... representatives from richland county, the city of columbia and FEMA will be at an open house today from 5:30 to 7:30 at the lower will be the main focus. an amazing look from outer space ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA on WMBF \(NBC\) - Myrtle Beach, SC](#)

10/29/2015 16:07:15

WMBF News at 4 (News)

... there is any money left for renourishment.. which FEMA can't cover. north myrtle beach is also working with horry county and myrtle beach to try to get unding for the grand ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA on WHNS \(FOX\) - Greenville, SC](#)

10/29/2015 16:40:36

FOX Carolina 4 O'Clock News (News)

... washed out a drainage pipe near the creek bed. officials have applied for FEMA help to fix it...but we're told the cost to repair the hole is around 236-thousand dollars!11 homes in anderson county were ..



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA. on WPDE \(ABC\) - Myrtle Beach, SC](#)

10/29/2015 17:03:22

ABC15 News at 5PM (News)

... county government and justice center there to help people register for FEMA assistance if had he had losses during the historic flooding in our area earlier this month. >> if they have damage to their ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WPDE (ABC) - Myrtle Beach, SC

10/29/2015 18:02:40

ABC15 News at 6PM (News)

... state officials expect costs in the billions. >>> another FEMA disaster recovery center is open in horry county government and justice center there to help people register for FEMA ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA. on WCIV-CHS (ABC) - Charleston, SC

10/29/2015 19:06:54

ABC News 4 @ 7 (News)

... just yesterday, governor nikki hale encourage victims who have not registered with FEMA to do so. >> if you have not registered with FEMA, we encourage you to your you need to register with ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WACH - COL (FOX) - Columbia, SC

10/29/2015 22:09:11

WACH FOX News at 10 (News)

... holloway wach fox news. >>> here's a reminder tonight on how to apply for FEMA relieve. -- relief. FEMA hotline on your screen. you can also apply at disaster ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA. on WHNS (FOX) - Greenville, SC

10/29/2015 22:18:09

Fox Carolina Ten O'Clock News (News)

... near the creek bed.local officials have applied for FEMA help to fix it...and met with the federal agency today. the repair cost is 236-thousand dollars!11 homes in anderson county were also ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WMBF (NBC) - Myrtle Beach, SC

10/29/2015 23:18:36

WMBF News at 11 (News)

... will be on hand to help victims with things like applying for FEMA aid.. the event is from 10 a-m to 2 p-m at georgetown's beck recreation center. a new flood relief effort is ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA. on WPDE (ABC) - Myrtle Beach, SC

10/29/2015 23:18:39

ABC15 News at 11 (News)

... in kingtree. flood victims will be able to register for FEMA assistance and get help with insurance claims. tomorrow's event will be from 10:00 a.m. ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WPDE (ABC) - Myrtle Beach, SC

10/30/2015 01:54:45

ABC15 News at 11 (News)

... in kingtree. flood victims will be able to register for FEMA assistance and get help with insurance claims. tomorrow's event will be from 10:00 a.m. ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WIS - COL (NBC) - Columbia, SC

10/30/2015 04:32:39

WIS News 10 Sunrise (News)

... anyone in need can register for financial aid from FEMA, apply for disaster loans and get help with flood proofing their homes. the event will be held from 10 ..



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA on WIS - COL \(NBC\) - Columbia, SC](#)

10/30/2015 05:03:42

WIS News 10 Sunrise (News)

... be there to help people register for financial aid from FEMA, apply for loans, and help with flood proofing their homes. the event runs from 10 this ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA on WPDE \(ABC\) - Myrtle Beach, SC](#)

10/30/2015 05:04:47

Good Morning Carolinas (News)

... the event. today flood victims will be able to register for FEMA assistance apply for disaster loans. >> it's from 10:00 to 2:00 in the afternoon. ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA on WIS - COL \(NBC\) - Columbia, SC](#)

10/30/2015 05:04:57

WIS News 10 Sunrise (News)

... united way at 803-733- 5400. hours must be submitted before FEMA assessment is done, which will be beginning of december. the u.s. senate voted early this morning to approve a bipartisan two-year ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA. on WCIV-CHS \(ABC\) - Charleston, SC](#)

10/30/2015 05:07:44

Good Morning Charleston (News)

... remind anyone who has registered for flood assistance through FEMA to keep your personal information up to date. officials say making sure any changes to addresses.. phone ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA on WBTW \(CBS\) - Myrtle Beach, SC](#)

10/30/2015 05:25:45

News 13 First Morning (News)

... businesses impacted by the floods. that includes FEMA and disaster loan applications. unemployment d food stamp assistance. and "well water" test kits. ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA on WPDE \(ABC\) - Myrtle Beach, SC](#)

10/30/2015 05:31:53

Good Morning Carolinas (News)

... in georgetown this morning. todalood victims can register for FEMA assistance, apply for disaster loans and get help with insurance claims. today's event from 10:00 to 2:00 at the beck recreation ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA on WHNS \(FOX\) - Greenville, SC](#)

10/30/2015 05:35:05

Morning News @ 5 (News)

... heavy rain. rain.county leaders have applied for FEMA help... and met with the federal agency on thursday. one of the most expensive issues --a sinkhole on "guyton road."the repair ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA. on WCBD-CHS \(NBC\) - Charleston, SC](#)

10/30/2015 05:40:08

News 2 Today (News)

... feet after the flood. >> where you can help with disaster loans and FEMA. we will tell you after the break, stay with us. modern communication is chaos. you email, you im, ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA on WCBD-CHS \(NBC\) - Charleston, SC](#)

10/30/2015 05:48:34

News 2 Today (News)

... to 2:00 p.m. today helping people remaster for FEMA assistance, and learn more about preparing for future floods. >>> a heads up on james island today, they are going be ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA. on WBTW \(CBS\) - Myrtle Beach, SC](#)

10/30/2015 05:56:43

News 13 Early Morning (News)

... businesses impacted by the floods. that includes FEMA and disaster loan applications. unemployment and food stamp assistance. and "well water" test kits. ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA. on WIS - COL \(NBC\) - Columbia, SC](#)

10/30/2015 06:05:18

WIS News 10 Sunrise (News)

... state and federal officials will be there to help people register for financial aid from FEMA, apply for loans, and help with flood proofing their homes. the event runs from 10 this ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA. on WPDE \(ABC\) - Myrtle Beach, SC](#)

10/30/2015 06:05:33

Good Morning Carolinas (News)

... the event. today's flood victims can go there to register for FEMA assistance, apply for disaster loans and get help with insurance claimed. the event is from 10:00 to 2:00 ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA on WIS - COL \(NBC\) - Columbia, SC](#)

10/30/2015 06:06:32

WIS News 10 Sunrise (News)

... united way at 803-733- 5400. hours must be submitted before the FEMA assessment deadline at the beginning of december. the u.s. justice department says 105 ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA. on WCIV-CHS \(ABC\) - Charleston, SC](#)

10/30/2015 06:08:19

Good Morning Charleston (News)

... 8:00 to 2:00 is when this runs. rob mal i. >> FEMA to keep your personal information up to date. officials say making any changes to addresses, phone numbers bank accounts or insurance policies, ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA on WACH - COL \(FOX\) - Columbia, SC](#)

10/30/2015 06:09:32

WACH Fox Good Day (News)

... wach.com. >>> a reminder on how to apply for FEMA relief. hotline number is on your screen: you can apply at disasterassistance.gov. If you got a letter denying ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA on WBTW \(CBS\) - Myrtle Beach, SC](#)

10/30/2015 06:25:24

News 13 This Morning (News)

... businesses impacted by the floods. that includes FEMA and disaster loan applications. unemployment and food stamp assistance. and "well water" test kits. ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA on WPDE \(ABC\) - Myrtle Beach, SC](#)

10/30/2015 06:32:15

Good Morning Carolinas (News)

... the event. >> today flood victims will be able to register for FEMA assistance apply for disaster loans and get help with insurance claims. this event starts at 10:00 this ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA on WHNS \(FOX\) - Greenville, SC](#)

10/30/2015 06:35:32

Morning News @ 6 (News)

... heavy rain. rain.county leaders have applied for FEMA help... and met with the federal agency on thursday. one of the most expensive issues --a sinkhole on "guyton road."the repair ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA. on WPDE \(ABC\) - Myrtle Beach, SC](#)

10/30/2015 06:52:52

Good Morning Carolinas (News)

... george ton to host the event. flood victims can register for FEMA assistance apply for disaster loans and get help with insurance claims. that's at the beck recreation sent zero we now know the gun ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA. on WBTW \(CBS\) - Myrtle Beach, SC](#)

10/30/2015 06:56:03

News 13 This Morning (News)

... businesses impacted by the floods. that includes FEMA and disaster loan applications. unemployment and food stamp assistance. and "well water" test kits. ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA on WFXB \(FOX\) - Myrtle Beach, SC](#)

10/30/2015 07:15:59

Fox Morning News (News)

... businesses impacted by the floods. that includes FEMA and disaster loan applications. unemployment and food stamp assistance. and "well water" test kits. ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA. on WBTW \(CBS\) - Myrtle Beach, SC](#)

10/30/2015 07:26:54

CBS This Morning (News)

... for any damages caused by the flood. according to d-hec, FEMA might pay to restore public roads across dams, but not to repair or replace the dams themselves. ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA. on WPDE \(ABC\) - Myrtle Beach, SC](#)

10/30/2015 07:27:20

Good Morning America (News)

... event. today flood victims will be able to register for FEMA assistance, apply for disaster loans and get help with insurance claims. the event is from 10 a-m to 2 p-m at the beck recreation center ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA on WIS - COL \(NBC\) - Columbia, SC](#)

10/30/2015 07:27:55

Today (News)

... be there to help people register for financial aid from FEMA, apply for loans, and help with flood proofing their homes. the event runs from 10 this ...