



News Release

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Charleston County marks the 25th Anniversary of Hurricane Hugo

Speakers will be available to discuss their experiences during the landfall of Hurricane Hugo

On Sept. 21, 1989, Hurricane Hugo slammed into Charleston County as a Category-4 storm. It was just before midnight as the storm brought winds of up to 135 mph. Hugo produced record storm tides of up to 20 feet in South Carolina. At the time, it was the strongest storm to strike the United States in a 20-year history. There were 35 deaths reported as a result of Hurricane Hugo in South Carolina.

"I can't believe it's been 25 years. When I think of the county, I can't remember what it was like before Hugo. It was like Hugo was the start of life and our foundation for being prepared," said Cathy Haynes, Chief of Operations of Charleston County's Emergency Management Department.

Media availability will take place on **Friday, Sept. 19, 2014 at 12:30 p.m.** at Charleston County's Board of Elections and Voter Registration warehouse, located at **4367 Headquarters Road in North Charleston**, where the following speakers will discuss their experiences and roles during Hurricane Hugo:

- Cathy Haynes, Chief of Operations; Emergency Management Department
- Magistrate Linda Lombard, Charleston County
- Dennis Clark, Former Charleston County Emergency Preparedness Director
- Representatives from the South Carolina Emergency Management Division

Haynes was the deputy director of the Emergency Preparedness Department at the time of Hurricane Hugo and spent much of the night the storm hit at the former EPD building, which is currently the voter warehouse. Linda Lombard was the Charleston County Council Chairperson at the time and addressed the public during several press conferences. Dennis Clark was Charleston County's Emergency Preparedness Department Director at the time.

Derrec Becker from the S.C. Emergency Management Division will also be available to discuss the ongoing #HUGO25 campaign. Becker will be joined by SCEMD state emergency planners, who can talk about modern disaster planning in South Carolina.

As a reminder, hurricane season is currently in effect until November 30. Citizens should be prepared and already have a plan in place. For more information, please review [Charleston County's 2014 Hurricane Guide](#). Citizens can also download the EOC App for smartphones and tablets for **free**. For more information on the app, [click here](#).

For information on Charleston County Government's Emergency Management Department:

<http://www.facebook.com/EMDChasCo>



- written by Natalie Hauff -