

John S. Skipper, Jr.  
Sheriff  
Anderson County Sheriff's Office

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It has been over 25 years since hurricane Hugo slammed into the city of Charleston, SC, around midnight on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September in 1989. The hurricane, a category 4, made landfall near Sullivan's Island. The hurricane caused 13 directly related deaths and 22 indirectly related deaths, and it injured several hundred people in South Carolina. Damage in the State was estimated to exceed \$7 billion, including \$2 billion in crop damage. Not even including the expansive growth of the South Carolina Coastal region since 1989 that would be closer to \$15-Billion dollars in today's economy. Add to that the negative economic impact if the recent Boeing manufacturing facility were to sustain damage or delays in filling orders.

According to the South Carolina Department of Natural resources, hurricanes and tropical storms are infrequent visitors to coastal South Carolina. In the period, 1901-present, only 27 tropical cyclones have made landfall on the South Carolina coast. Of these, only eight were of Category 2 to Category 4 intensity. Since 1900, no Category 5 hurricanes have hit South Carolina. There have been two Category 4 hurricanes, Hazel in 1954, and Hugo in 1989 and two Category 3, an unnamed storm in 1945 and Gracie in 1959.

Since Hugo, the State of South Carolina has worked to improve its readiness and response to a direct hurricane hit. Almost annually The State Emergency Management Division, along with other State agencies such as the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED), The South Carolina National Guard, The South Carolina Highway Patrol, The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, (DNR) plus many local agencies, such as County Sheriff's Offices, Police Chiefs and their local departments, County Emergency Management, along with Public Health Agencies and Hospitals, participate in intensive drills and exercises to train first responders on how to mitigate the potential damage, and to preserve lives. These exercises are conducted using a "whole community approach" to maximize recovery and resiliency efforts, and test and improve the emergency Management (EM) System. It should be noted, it does not take a direct hit from a hurricane, such as hurricane Hugo, to negatively impact the State of South Carolina. Most of the deaths and injuries from tropical cyclones are not from the wind, but from flooding and frequently spawned tornadoes.

Recent hurricanes, that did not directly hit South Carolina, caused widespread damage within the state, and in upstate South Carolina. Here are just a few of many examples. Hurricane Andrew hit the greater Miami area of Florida in August of 1992. The storm tracked into the

Gulf of Mexico and inland again, making its way toward the Upstate of South Carolina. The remnants of this storm left a large amount of rain and flooding, even spawning tornadoes. The same is true with Ivan in 2004 and Katrina in 2005. Even though these storms did not hit South Carolina directly, their impact and damage was felt in South Carolina.

The reality is this, most all disasters, whether natural or manmade, is either local or regional in nature. A local response, using an all hazards approach, is the most effective and most efficient method of dealing with these situations. Super storm Sandy, which struck the northeast in October of 2012, impacted a large area, but for the most part, was handled by local authorities in the areas hit. Super Storm Sandy also demonstrated the value of using Social Media in ascertaining where to best deploy resources in the recovery efforts. Crowd-sourcing became an effective tool in assessing need. Crowd Sourcing, using open source tools, allows Emergency Operation Centers (EOC's) two-way communication with the public, providing validated "intel driven" solutions and responses for effective actions to any given situation or disaster. While, as in the case of Super Storm Sandy, FEMA played a significant part. The primary mitigation and recovery efforts were handled at the Local and State level. Local and State governments should not look at FEMA as the primary responder in any given disaster, as that would be logistically impossible. FEMA needs to be viewed as a valued Federal Partner providing additional resources in the recovery and rebuilding efforts. FEMA's advance support of local agencies provides those agencies with the needed tools to be able to respond quickly and effectively.

In February of this year South Carolina experienced a significant winter storm. Many counties were affected to varying degrees. One County, Barnwell County, experienced major damage from an unprecedented ice storm event. This storm knocked out power, and took down numerous trees, blocking roadways. It became more than the local emergency staff could handle on their own. However, rather than reaching out to the Federal Level for help, Barnwell was helped by their regional neighbors in dealing with that situation. Staff from Anderson County assisted Barnwell County, as did Abbeville and Jasper counties.

One of the great changes in recent years, at least in the Upstate of South Carolina, is mutual cooperation across county lines. Several years ago several counties got together to form the Western Piedmont Regional Emergency Management Task Force. This regional organization, which currently consist of 5 counties, has been working and training together to help each other in times of disasters. By shedding old territorial boundaries, we have found a way to maximize limited resources during tough economic times.

The Federal 1033 program administered by the Department of Defense, has been a major help for local agencies. The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) 1033 Program permits the Secretary of Defense to transfer excess DoD supplies and equipment to state and local law enforcement agencies for use in their law enforcement duties. This property is procured at no cost to the agency with the exception of any shipping or transportation costs.

The type of property available includes but is not limited to tactical and riot gear, vehicles, watercraft, weapons, and night vision. All equipment must be strictly accounted for. It has been a great benefit at the local level in being able to procure materials that otherwise might not be obtainable by limited local budgets. In Anderson County we have used some of these assets in recent winter storm events in 2005, 2010, 2012 and this year of 2014. The Boston Bombing event in April of 2013 reminds us how such assets can be deployed for the benefit and safety of the public at large on the local level. However, the only negative aspect of the program has been the public perception that this is nothing more than the Federal Government trying to leverage control or takeover of local Law Enforcement and their associated Emergency Management agencies.

In addition, Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) the process by which National Guard, Army Reserve and other military assets and personnel can be used to assist in missions normally carried out by civil authorities, such as responses to natural and man-made disasters, law enforcement support, special events, and other domestic activities, has been an additional asset for local agencies. In Anderson County our Emergency Management has been under the Sheriff's Office for 5 years. For us, this has proven to be an effective partnership, as in times of disasters and emergencies, both agencies must work together. Being under the same umbrella has proffered a good working relationship and understanding, which benefits our entire community.

In looking at how we would deal with a hurricane Hugo type event in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the lessons learned since that time are invaluable. Local preparedness and local incident management are vital in resiliency. Using technology to better inform the public and media are essential in putting forth an accurate message. Developing partnerships with fellow stakeholders, rather than working in individual silos is imperative. By working off a common operating platform and unified command, duplication of efforts is avoided, and a more effective response can be engaged. In times past, agencies working without coordination with other agencies often tended to either duplicate, or get in the way of other agencies efforts.

Emergencies, at the local level, are best responded to at the local level. This is easy to understand, as local emergency management knows their capabilities and resources. They also know their regions and their unique risks. These agencies have also established local and regional partnerships, and have built long-standing relationships, invaluable during times of disaster. For example, in Anderson County, we are located on a major Interstate corridor, Interstate 85, which is the commerce link between Atlanta and Charlotte, and a large part of the United States. Critical infrastructure is in our region, including major Nuclear power generating facilities, and major vital industry. The loss of any of these would not just impact the local region, but would have a domino effect over a far larger region. Our well established relationships and partnerships give us an edge on our initial response to any given situation, and can help sustain those efforts during those critical first 72 hours; the time-frame that additional outside assets may need to prepare and arrive.

Other lessons learned are to use creative methods to share information with the public. Super Storm Sandy demonstrated the power of crowd sourcing and Social Media. Social Media can be a two way street to learn from the public where the problems are, and to best deploy the most effective response. Recent innovations, some that have been initiated at the Federal level include the IPAWS system. IPAWS, or the Integrated Public Awareness System, allows Local Emergency Managers the ability to send timely and accurate information via multiple platforms, including text messaging, the Emergency Alert System at local radio, television and cable outlets, and NOAA Weather radio from one common platform, just to name a few. Anderson County is a participant in the IPAWS program, one of the very first in South Carolina, and among a small number nationwide.

Anderson County has also developed its own set of applications to better serve the public. Anderson County was the first to deploy Safetown. Safetown is a website and phone application that can be used as a two way street with the public. Websites and the extensive use of Social Media, including Facebook and Twitter in maintaining an on-going dialog with the public.

In Anderson County we have the concept of “Anderson Strong.” We are working to inform the public, and even train the public to handle a variety of potential threats, including things the public can do when faced with workplace violence, active shooters, and even a school intruder event. Hundreds of people have gone through this training program to date, with many more training events planned.

In Anderson County we realize that when something happens, we may very well be on our own for a substantial amount of time before other assistance, whether at the State or federal Level can arrive. Waiting on the Federal Government to handle a local matter is not an option for us, or any local emergency management agency. Emergencies are best administered from the ground up, not from the top down. When a crisis arrives, time is of the essence. In addition, local emergency management personnel know their local assets, resources, and have built established relationships to help in the mitigation and recovery efforts. The most efficient response, particularly at the Federal level, is to be a valuable resource and valued partner, but not to run the day to day aspects of any particular incident.

Hurricane Hugo demonstrated the need for a stronger emergency management community. However, the lessons learned, and actions taken during this time, have a more far reaching effect. Hurricane Hugo was not simply a coastal event. Its affect could be felt hundreds of miles away. Since 9/11/2001 the focus has been on an “all hazards” response to emergencies. While it is true that we are far more able to deal with the aftermath of a hurricane Hugo, our agency is far better prepared to deal with any type of emergency that may come our way. When it comes to any type of disaster, natural or manmade, it’s not a matter of if, it’s simply a matter of when.