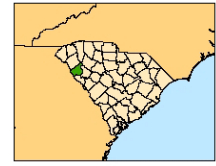


ABBEVILLE COUNTY, SC

Hazard Profile for 2008

An Excerpt from the State of South Carolina Hazard Assessment for 2008



I. Summary

Abbeville County is vulnerable to both natural (hurricanes/tropical storms) and technological (hazardous material incidents) hazards. Winter weather produces the most monetary damage, and generally occurs every two years or so. Wildfires, thunderstorms, drought, and hazardous material incidents are some of the prominent hazards that regularly affect the county, based on past occurrences.

II. Social Vulnerability

Social vulnerability examines the socioeconomic and demographic character of places and helps to explain the variation in the population's ability to prepare for and respond to hazards. The Social Vulnerability Index (SoVI) is a statistical measure that compares social vulnerability to environmental hazards among places, and then visually displays these comparisons on a map. SoVI thus illustrates where there is uneven capacity for preparedness and response and where additional planning and response resources might be used most effectively to help residents. The variables used in determining the Social Vulnerability (SoVI) score along with how SoVI is calculated are available on the Hazards and Vulnerability Research Institute SoVI website (<http://www.sovius.org>).

Within Abbeville County, most of the census tracts exhibit moderately elevated levels of social vulnerability. Figure 1 provides maps of the Abbeville County depicting (on the left) social vulnerability by census tract and (on the right) cities and major roads.

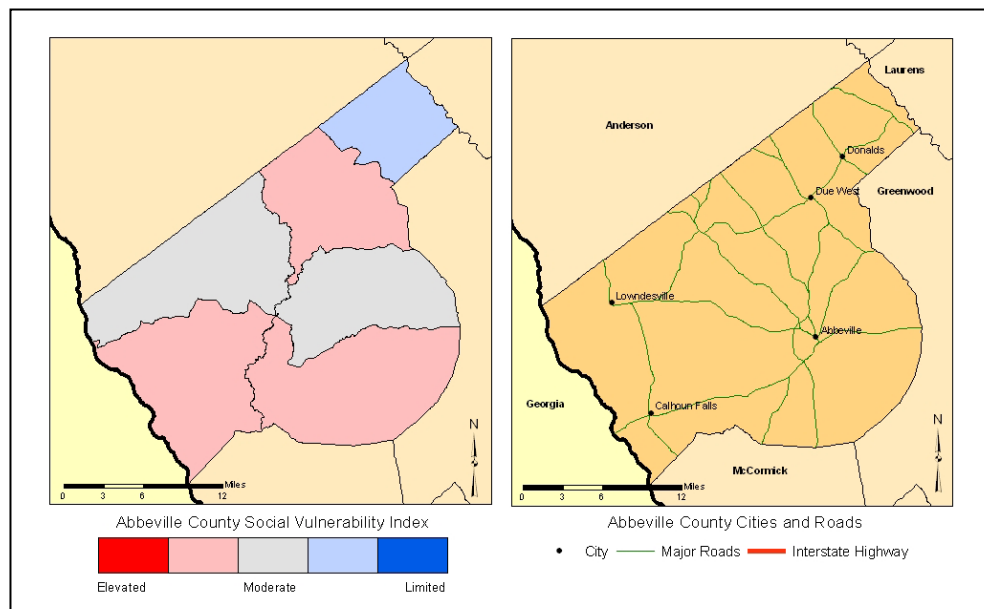


FIGURE 1. The Social Vulnerability for Abbeville County, SC by US Census tracts and a general reference map of Abbeville County.

III. Terms

Disaster – a singular hazard event that results in widespread human losses or has profound impacts on local environments.

Frequency – a calculated number showing the chance of an event occurring each year based on the historic record.

Hazard – the potential threat to humans as well as the impact of an event on society and the environment.

Recurrence – a calculated number that examines the expected time interval between events based on the historic record.

Risk – the likelihood or probability of occurrence of a hazard or adverse event.

Vulnerability – the potential for loss or the capacity to suffer harm from a hazard event.



South Carolina Emergency
Management Division -
Mitigation Division
E-mail: mbery@emd.sc.gov
<http://www.scemd.org>

Hazard & Vulnerability
Research Institute
University of South Carolina
E-mail: scutter.sc.edu
<http://webra.cas.sc.edu/hvri>



ABBEVILLE COUNTY HAZARD PROFILE 2008

IV. Hazard Identification

The estimated recurrence of a hazard is a useful element (based on event frequency) for distinguishing between infrequent hazards like earthquakes, and frequent hazards such as hazardous materials incidents or traffic accidents. The most common hazard events in Abbeville County are hazardous material accidents, severe thunderstorms and wind, and wildfires. Earthquakes and hurricane/tropical storms have the lowest recurrence intervals. The recurrence and hazard frequency table can be seen in Table 1.

TABLE 1. The Hazard Profile for Abbeville County, SC.

Hazard ^a	Number of Events	Years in Record	Recurrence Interval (Years)	Hazard Frequency (Percent Chance per Year)
Coastal Events				
Hurricane/Tropical Storm	2	158	79.00	1.27
Ocean & Lake Surf ^b	1	16	16.00	6.25
Waterspout	0	16	*	*
Dam Failure	-	-	-	-
Drought	33	59	1.79	55.93
Flood	14	59	4.21	23.73
Fog	3	12	4.00	25.00
Geophysical Events				
Avalanche	0	49	*	*
Earthquake	12	310	25.83	3.87
Landslide	0	49	*	*
Human-Induced Events				
Civil Disturbance	-	-	-	-
Hazardous Materials (Hazmat)	22	22	1.00	100.00
Nuclear Power Plant	0	8	*	*
Terrorism	0	29	*	*
Transportation (Motor Vehicle)	2,979	10	<0.50	29,790.00**
Severe Thunderstorm Events				
Funnel Cloud	0	16	*	*
Hail	56	59	1.05	94.92
Heavy Precipitation	0	15	*	*
Lightning	8	16	2.00	50.00
Thunderstorm & Wind	108	59	0.54	183.05**
Tornado	14	59	4.21	23.73
Temperature Extremes	6	16	2.67	37.50
Wildfire	1,136	21	<0.50	5,409.52**
Winter Weather (Snow & Ice)	26	59	2.27	44.07
^a Data Sources: National Climatic Data Center (www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cqi-win/wvcqi.dll?wwEvent~Storm); National Geophysical Data Center (www.ngdc.noaa.gov/hazard/)			* Unable to calculate (cannot divide by zero) ** Percent is greater than 100.00, therefore hazard can be expected to occur more than once per year - Data Unavailable	
^b Includes coastal flooding, coastal erosion, coastal winds				

V. Hazard Loss Information

When compared to South Carolina as a whole, Abbeville County has a higher probability of tornadoes and winter weather events, and just above the average for heat and drought. Figure 2 (page 3) shows those hazards occurring in the county that exceeded the state mean in red type. Severe weather (lightning, wind, thunderstorms, hail), and flooding are below the state mean indicating that these hazards historically have had less impact on Abbeville County than elsewhere in South Carolina.

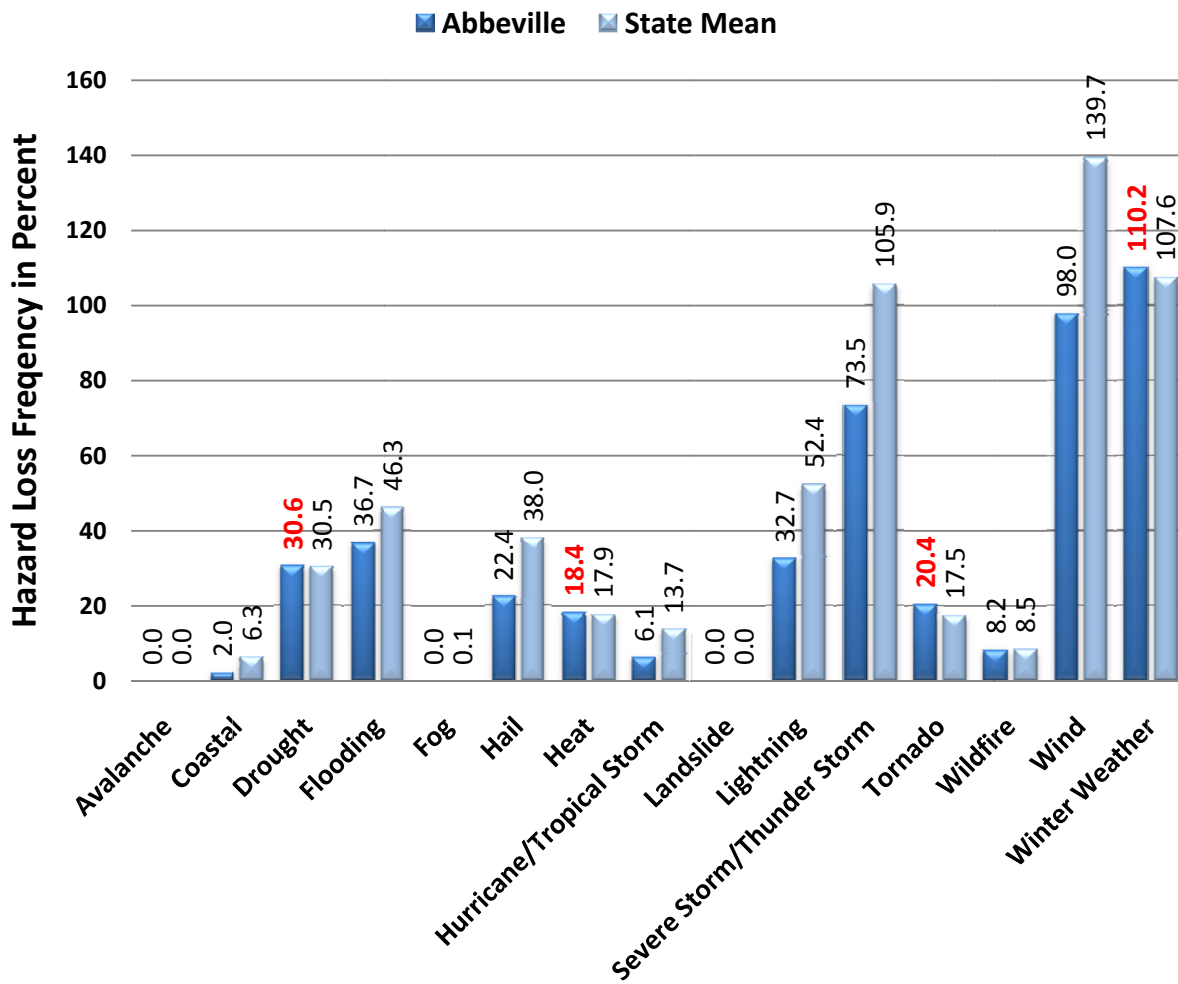


FIGURE 2. The historic loss causing hazard frequency between 1960 and 2008 for Abbeville County compared to South Carolina as reported in SHEL DUS. Percentage numbers indicated in red are when the county total exceeds the state mean. Also, a hazard that is identified in the National Climatic Data Center Storm Data reports as a multiple event hazard (flooding, winter weather, coastal storm), and given a statewide or regional location, the impact of the event is equally distributed amongst the counties involved.

Another way of determining how vulnerable a county is to particular hazards is by examining the amount of damage caused by past events. In Figure 3 (page 4), the total damage is calculated as the cumulative amount of damage from 1960 to 2008 based on twelve hazard types from the Hazards and Vulnerability Research Institute’s SHEL DUS database – available at (<http://www.sheldus.org>). The total losses for the county were \$69 million or less than one percent of the state’s total for the same time- period. The most significant cause of the losses was winter weather, contributing more than \$31 million to the total.

Hazard	Total Damage (in 2008 dollars)	Percent of State
Coastal	\$6,476	0.01%
Drought	\$14,058,478	2.26%
Flooding	\$3,085,076	2.07%
Hail	\$404,288	0.41%
Heat	\$11,286,643	2.26%
Hurricane/ Tropical Storm	\$329,868	0.01%
Lightning	\$754,450	1.49%
Severe Storm/ Thunder Storm	\$858,117	0.42%
Tornado	\$4,440,494	1.95%
Wildfire	\$334,042	2.18%
Wind	\$2,597,620	1.85%
Winter Weather	\$31,098,004	3.59%
Abbeville - Total	\$69,253,557	0.75%

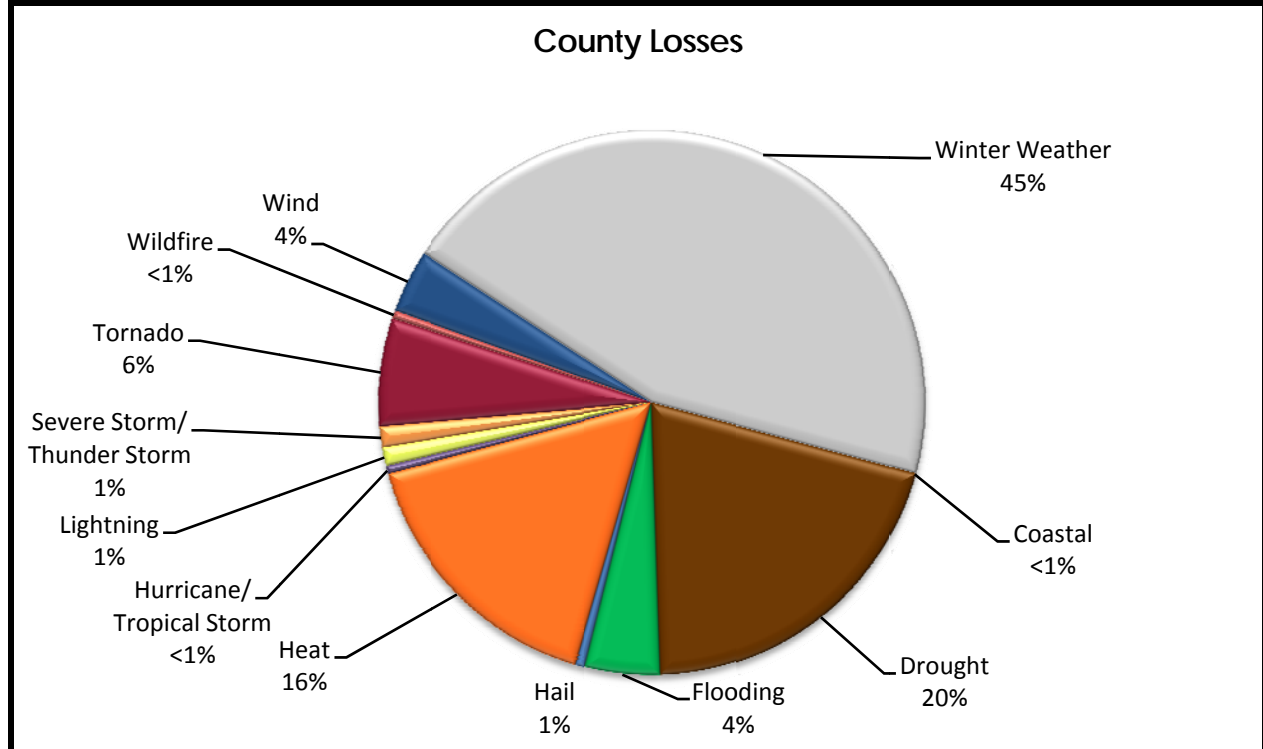


FIGURE 3. Historic Hazard Event Damages (property and crop) between 1960 and 2008 for Abbeville County, SC.