

Urban Flooding

Dr. Sam Brody has accepted an appointment to a National Academy of Sciences committee to study and draft a report on urban flooding. This report should have a significant influence on national flood policy. The committee aims to organize a series of case studies to explore the issue of urban flooding in 3 to 8 metropolitan areas. These sessions will provide information from government agencies and other relevant stakeholders responsible for flood control, flood response, recovery, and mitigation in relation to urban flooding.

http://www8.nationalacademies.org/cp/projectview.aspx?key=49844&_ga=1.178894370.761412445.1486488216

I-STORM

I-STORM's Delivery Board approved Center for Texas Beaches and Shores application to become an Associate Member of the network. I-STORM brings together professionals to collaborate over storm surge barriers. They aim to improve standards of operation, management and performance to reduce the severe flood risk of people, property and places around the world. With I-STORM's strong efforts to collaborate on research and development combined with our dedication of conservation and protection, CTBS looks forward to the opportunities ahead as Associate Member of the network.



Institute for Sustainable Communities



CTBS is now collaborating with the Institute for Sustainable Communities with Dr. Ashley Ross as the lead faculty member for the Coastal Risk and Reduction Initiative. We are officially the discovery area of "Coastal Risk Reduction and Resilience." The Institute for Sustainable Communities "seeks to provide solutions to today's most pressing coastal issues through holistic research that explores the interconnections of the natural, built, and socio-political environments and engages communities to enhance local resilience."

<http://ifsc.tamu.edu/Discovery/Coastal-Risk-Reduction-and-Resilience>

Forthcoming: Effects of the FEMA Community Rating System

CTBS presents a forthcoming paper by Wesley E. Highfield and Samuel D. Brody on Determining the effects of the FEMA Community Rating System program on flood losses in the United States. In an effort to counter mounting flood losses, the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency introduced the Community Rating System in 1990 as a way to incentivize local jurisdictions to exceed the existing minimum standard for floodplain

management. In response to the lack of comprehensive knowledge on the effectiveness of the CRS, this study quantitatively evaluates the difference in flood losses experienced by CRS-participating communities. We pose the following research question: do CRS communities incur lower losses than non-CRS communities when accounting for contextual environmental and socioeconomic characteristics? Results

from a two-step analysis consisting of propensity score matching and pooled linear regressions indicate that the CRS program has had a statistically significant effect on reducing insured flood losses incurred by communities across the U.S. In addition to discounts on insurance premium rates, communities participating in the CRS also experienced a 41.6% overall average reduction in flood claims compared to communities with similar characteristics that do not participate.

Wesley E. Highfield, Samuel D. Brody. Determining the effects of the FEMA Community Rating System program on flood losses in the United States. International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction. Forthcoming.