# NORTH AMERICAN SEVERE CONVECTIVE STORM MODELS

#### **Matthew Nielsen**

Director - Americas Model Product Management



тм

©2013 Risk Management Solutions, Inc.

# WHAT IS NEEDED? CAT MODEL INPUT AND OUTPUT

## Input (from user)

### Address

Physical characteristics of insured buildings

- Occupancy
- Year Built
- Construction
- Number of Stories
- Floor Area
- Other characteristics...

#### Coverages

- Structures, Contents, Additional Living/Loss of Use
- Limits, Values, Deductibles
- Reinsurance

## **Output (key metrics for business decisions)**

Average Annual Loss (AAL): the amount of modeled premium an insurer needs to collect in order to cover the average peril loss over time

 Combination of event frequency and mean event loss

#### **Exceedance Probability (EP)**

curve: the probability of exceeding a loss level in a given year. Most often referred to as 'return period'.



Two types of EP curve:

- Occurrence Exceedance Probability (OEP)
- Aggregate Exceedance Probability (AEP)



©2013 Risk Management Solutions, Inc.

# MODELING CHALLENGES

## Two types of modeling challenges:

- 1. Data Challenges:
  - Incomplete observational data record
  - · Need for more claims data
  - Changing claims practices

- 2. <u>Technology Challenges</u>:
  - Trade-off between meaningful results and a model that can be used



# LOSSES FROM THE PAST 5 YEARS

- Industry losses leading up to the 2008 update were lower than the long-term average
- 2008 2012 experienced over \$70 BN in loss to the industry
- These additional years provide additional information that can be used to better calibrate SCS models



## U.S. Industry-wide Annual SCS claims (from PCS) Inflated to 2012 dollars

©2013 Risk Management Solutions, Inc.



Confidential

RMS



• Example 1: The Southeast US had high risk and was primed to experienced a large outbreak



©2013 Risk Management Solutions, Inc.









- Some states experienced unprecedented SCS events since 2008
  - 2010 hailstorm in AZ
  - 2011 tornadoes in AL, MS and MO

• Example 3: Large, damaging events less rare than we understood

## Loss Event Exceedance Frequency (EEF) for AZ





Ë

# HAIL HAZARD ASSESSMENT

- Storm Prediction Center dataset does not have the spatial detail to define local hazard severity
- E.g., map shows the \$3B Phoenix hailstorm in October 2010
  - 4 or 5 point observations in SPC archive
- Radar data from Weather DecisionTechnology, Inc also shown on map
- One km spatial resolution, for two hailstone size categories
  - H1 (0.75" to 2") and H2 (> 2")
- New radar data enables more accurate estimates of event severity



# **TORNADO HAZARD ASSESSMENT**

- SPC lists the length and width\*\* for all observed tornadoes
- Assume tornado is ellipse and compute total area
- What is the distribution of F scale in the whole footprint?
- Combine with total tornado area to obtain the area of tornado at the six different severities
- Do this for all tornadoes in SPC archives, 1973-2012
- The methodology and new events since 2008 form a new target for SCS-Update, resulting in increases for some regions and decreases for others

\*\* - SPC measured widths are inhomogeneous due to change in observing practice

- Observed widths were modified





# **TORNADO DAMAGE VALIDATION**

Vulnerability updates validated by

- 1) Joplin 2011 tornado reports
- 2) Tuscaloosa 2011 tornado damage reports
- 3) Moore, OK 2013 tornado recon









# SCOPE OF US + CANADA SCS MODEL UPDATE



©2013 Risk Management Solutions, Inc.

# **IMPLICATIONS**

## **Improved Tail Risk**

Recent large events have given us more data points

Better reflection of possibility of major SCS catastrophe

Improves model usage for reinsurers and large single location risks

#### Enhanced Risk Diff.

Given additional data, differentiation is easier to quantify between varying occupancies, years of construction, floor area, and construction

Improves model for users who capture detailed location information

#### **Better Match to History**

Comparisons of model to incurred ratio for industry and individual client portfolios in much better agreement

Leads to more meaningful results for all users



©2013 Risk Management Solutions, Inc.