# Reserving for Catastrophes in Commercial Insurance

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## Agenda

Complexities of Commercial Property Insurance

Commercial Insurance Catastrophe Estimation

Super Storm Sandy

#### **Commercial Exposure Bases**

## When a catastrophe occurs

Commercial property claims are <u>not</u> based on individual cars or homes...



**ACCOUNT SIZES** 

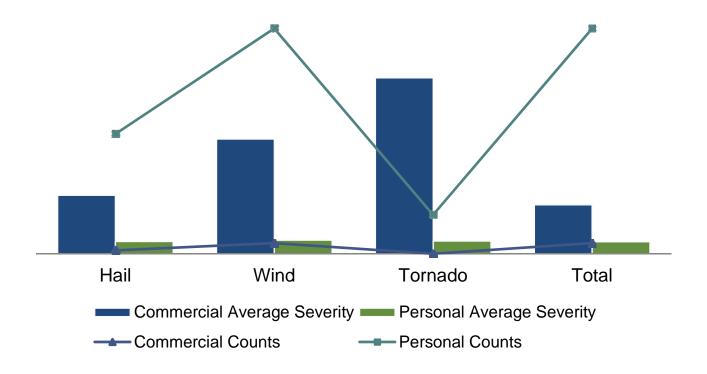
**PLAN TYPE** 

**COVERAGES** 

#### **Commercial Account Size**

#### LARGE LIMITS = LARGE LOSS POTENTIAL

Driven by... ▼ FREQUENCY ▲ SEVERITY



### **Commercial Plan Types and Coverages**

#### PLAN TYPES AND COVERAGES

...play a major role in the financial impact to Commercial insurers after a catastrophe

Shared & Layered vs. Traditional policies

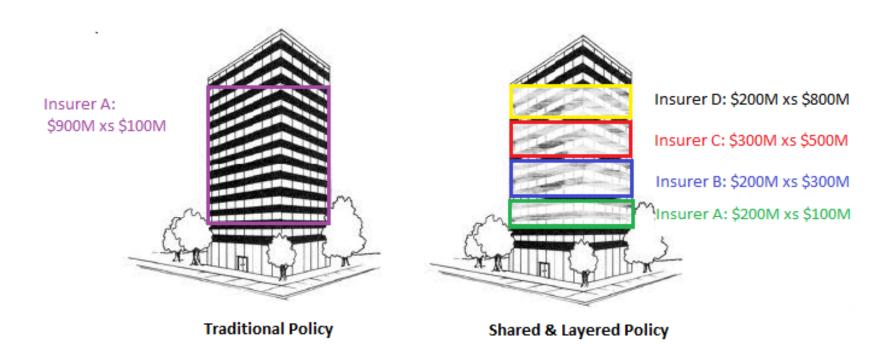
Business Interruption

Flood Coverage & Restrictions

### **Commercial Plan Types**

#### **SHARED & LAYERED**

- Reduces insurers exposure on large policies
- Spreads large risks across multiple carriers



#### **BUSINESS INTERRUPTION**

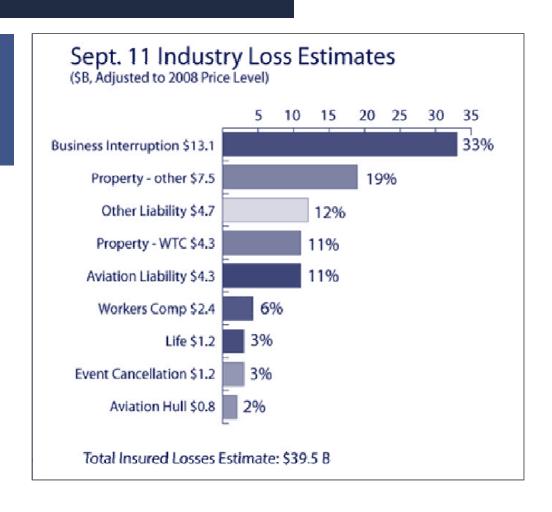
Provides coverage for loss of anticipated profits and necessary continuing expenses during a shutdown





#### **BUSINESS INTERRUPTION**

...may be a significant part of ultimate losses



Source: Insurance Information Institute

#### **FLOOD COVERAGE**

& RESTRICTIONS

- Offered as an endorsement to property policies
- Account must satisfy certain criteria to be eligible
- Deductibles and set limits apply



#### **SUPER STORM SANDY**

...A TALE OF TWO STORAGE UNITS

# CUSTOMER 1 Flood Coverage Endorsement



# CUSTOMER 2 No Flood Coverage



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**Commercial Insurance Catastrophe Estimation** 

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#### **Catastrophe Estimation**

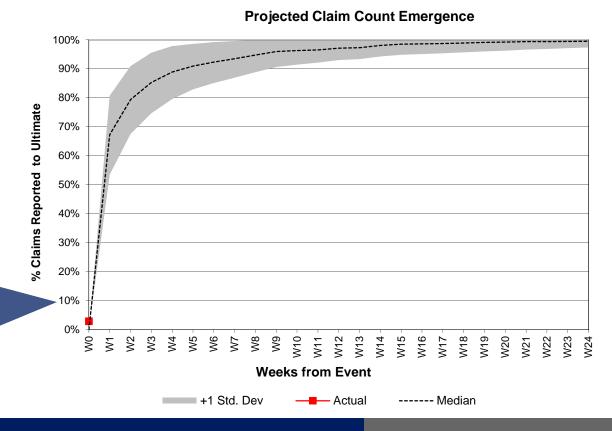
#### **ACTUARIAL METHODS**

- Analyze Claim, Severity, and Case Emergence Patterns as data reported
- Project ultimate loss & ALAE by storm

Early After Storm / Limited Data



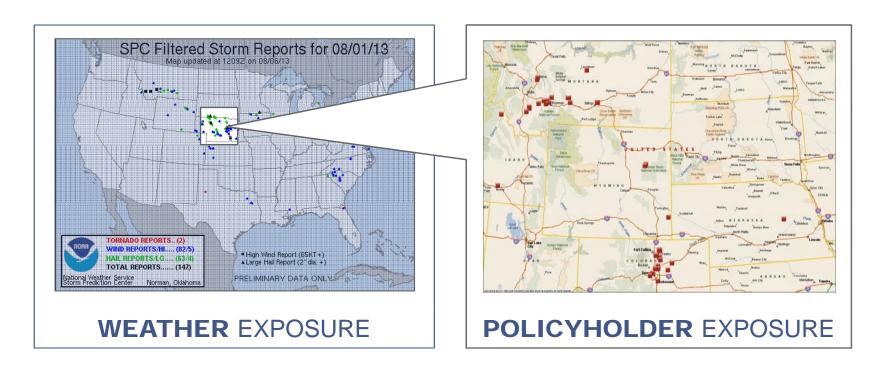
Difficult to Predict Losses



#### **Exposure-Based Alternatives**

#### **EXPOSURE METHODS**

- Can project early estimates for major catastrophes
- Critical when reserving for smaller severe storms after the event has occurred



#### **Exposure Data**

# Small Event Footprint / Small Location Count

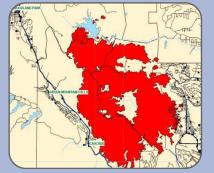


# Can establish boundaries on **Potential Loss**

Without a sophisticated, fully developed simulation, it is difficult to make an estimate when exposure is in billions of dollars.

#### **USEFUL**

Texas Fertilizer Explosion Wildfire Footprint, Minimal Exposure



#### **NOT USEFUL**

Widespread Midwest Floods

IOWA

MISSONI

KENTUCKY

JUMA

TENNESSEE

Widespread Storm / Many Wind or Hail Reports



### **Catastrophe Estimation – Claims Input**

#### **CLAIMS INPUT**

Early after a cat event, claims department has detailed knowledge of the claim severity and type of claims being reported....

#### STORM SEVERITY

- Size of hail, location of storm (urban/rural), large policyholders affected
- Minimal damage, or widespread destruction?



#### LARGE LOSSES

- Claims department will provide information on large loss expectations
- Losses not always immediately reported or recognizable within Actuarial datasets



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Complexities of Commercial Property Insurance

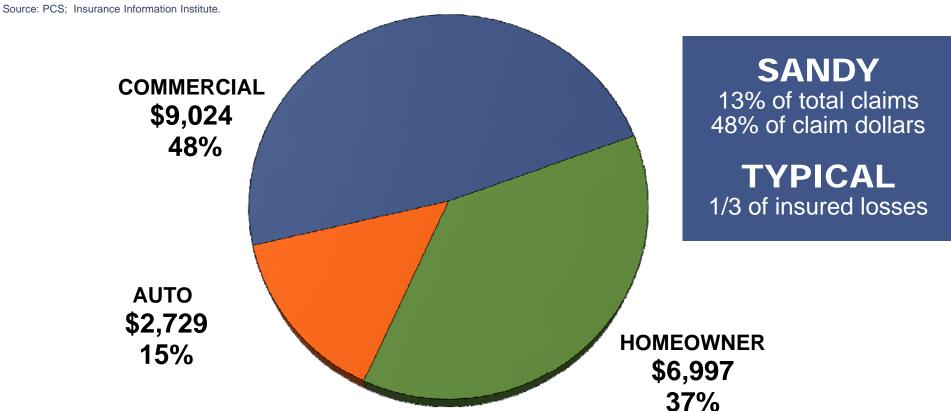
**Commercial Insurance Catastrophe Estimation** 

Super Storm Sandy

## Sandy - Paid Losses by Claim Type (\$M)



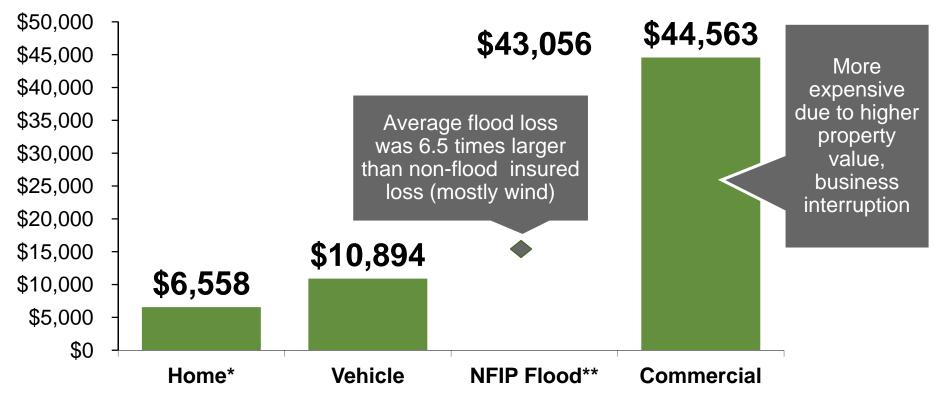
\*PCS insured loss estimates as of 1/18/13. Catastrophe modeler estimates range up to \$25 billion. All figures exclude losses paid by the NFIP.



## Sandy: Average Values by Claim Type

# CLAINS More Expensive than Homeowners Claims

#### Vehicle Claims Were Unusually Expensive Due to Flooding



<sup>\*</sup>Includes rental and condo policies (excludes NFIP flood). \*\*As of Feb. 20, 2013.

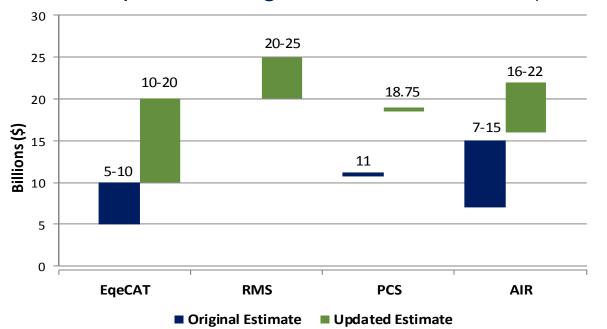
Sources: Catastrophe loss data is for Catastrophe Serial No. 90 (Oct. 28 - 31, 2012) from PCS as of Jan. 18, 2013; Insurance Information Institute .

## Sandy – Reserving Challenges

# INITIAL EXPOSURE-BASED **ESTIMATES**

#### **UNDERSTATED**

- Electrical outages and utility losses created significantly greater volume of Business Interruption claims than expected
- Storm Surge was worse than anticipated
- Unanticipated outages to infrastructure (i.e. subways)



Sandy gives actuaries a new benchmark to use in estimating how to incorporate these storm-impacts into initial loss estimates

#### Sandy – Actuarial Loss Estimates

#### **TRACKING**

Emergence and ultimates over time...



#### **INTERNAL BENCHMARKS**

for reserving future storms of similar magnitudes

