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# The Shifting Nature of Catastrophic Risk in the United States 

## Casualty Actuaries Special Interest Seminar October 5, 2012 <br> Baltimore, MD

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## Not All Data in a PowerPoint Slide Are Accurate or Reliable



## Until Recently (or so we thought),

-Only Hurricanes Caused Disasters
-Only a Small Part of the U.S. (the Gulf and South Atlantic Coasts) Was Vulnerable
-Only June-November (Hurricane Season) Was Worrisome

Only Wind Damage Was Likely

## Are More Catastrophes Occurring?

## It Certainly Seems That Way

## 7 of the 10 Most Costly Disasters in U.S. History Were Hurricanes

(Insured Losses, 2011 Dollars, \$ Billions)


There have been larger disasters in our history, but none more costly than these, due to growth of exposures and insurance coverage

[^0]
## 15 Costliest World Insurance Losses, 1970-2011*



[^1]
## US Insured Catastrophe Losses, Yearly, 1989-2011*

## \$ Billions of 2011 dollars



## US CAT losses in 2011 were the $5^{\text {th }}$ highest in US history on an inflation-adjusted basis

*Munich Re estimate for 2012 first half.
Note: 2001 figure includes $\$ 20.3 B$ for $9 / 11$ losses reported through 12/31/01 (\$25.9B 2011 dollars). Includes only business and personal property claims, business interruption and auto claims. Non-prop/BI losses = \$12.2B (\$15.6B in 2011 dollars.)
Sources: Property Claims Service/ISO; Insurance Information Institute.

## Number of Federal Major Disaster Declarations, Yearly, 1953-2012*

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Some federal major disaster declarations cover the same storm in separate states; for example, there were 3 declarations for a "severe storm" that struck DC, Virginia, and West Virginia on June 29-July 1, 2012
*Through August 26, 2012. Sources: Federal Emergency Management Administration at
http://www.fema.gov/disasters?field state tid=All\&field disaster type term tid=All\&field disaster declaration type value=All\&items _per page=60\&=GO ; Insurance Information Institute.

## Natural Disasters in the United States, 1980 - 2011 Number of Events (Annual Totals 1980 - 2011)

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## Natural Disasters in the United States, 1980-2012

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Number of Events, January - June only


- Geophysical events (Earthquake, tsunami, volcanic eruption)

Meteorological events (Storm)
$\square$ Hydrological events (Flood, mass movement)

[^2]
## Losses Due to Natural Catastrophes in the United States

1980 - 2012 (Annual Totals 1980 - 2011 vs. First Six Months 2012)
2012:1H insured losses in the US totaled US\$ 9.3bn.


## An Upward Trend: Losses Due to Natural Disasters in the US, 1980-2011

(Overall and Insured Losses)
(2011 Dollars, \$ Billions)
Overall Losses: \$72.8 B


# What Happened in 2011 and the $1^{\text {st }}$ Half of 2012 

Lately, Insured Claims from Tropical Storms in the US Have Decreased, but Other Causes of Catastrophes Have Risen

## Natural Disasters in the United States, 2011

|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Number of } \\ \text { Events } \end{gathered}$ | Fatalities | Estimated Overall Losses (US \$m) | $\begin{gathered} \text { Estimated Insured } \\ \text { Losses (US \$m) } \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Severe Thunderstorm | 69 | 617 | \$46,548 | \$25,813 |
| Winter Storm | 9 | 67 | \$2,708 | \$2,017 |
| Flood | 14 | 20 | \$2,705 | \$535 |
| Earthquake | 5 | 1 | \$257 | \$50 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Tropical } \\ & \text { Cyclone } \end{aligned}$ | 3 | 0 | \$10,700 | \$5,510* |
| Wildire | 58 | 15 | \$1,922 | \$855 |
| Other | 2 | 33 | \$8,000 | \$1,000 |
| Totals | 160 | 753 | \$72,840 | \$35,780 |

## Natural Disasters in the United States, $20121^{\text {st }}$ Half

| Severe | Number of <br> Events | Fatalities | Estimated Overall <br> Losses (US $\mathbf{s m})$ | Estimated Insured <br> Losses (US $\mathbf{s m})$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Thunderstorm | 56 | 69 | 13,550 | 8,760 |
| Winter Storm | 3 | 3 | 80 | 38 |
| Flood | 6 | 0 | 12 | Minor |
| Earthquake | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tropical |  |  |  |  |
| Cyclone | 2 | 1 | 100 | 50 |
| Wildfire | 22 | 6 | 875 | 500 |
| Totals | $\mathbf{9 0}$ | $\mathbf{7 9}$ | $\mathbf{1 4 , 6 1 7}$ | $\mathbf{9 , 3 4 8}$ |

## US Natural Catastrophes 2012

■US insured losses from the first half of 2012 totaled \$9.3billion.

- This was well below the $\$ 24.4 \mathrm{~b}$ in the first half of 2011 (in 2012 Dollars).
- Thunderstorms (including tornado/hail), account for almost all of this, estimated at $\$ 8.8 \mathrm{~b}$,
- Even though claims in 2012 were 1/3 of those from 2011, the first half of 2012 was the third most costly spring thunderstorm season in US history


## US Natural Catastrophes 2012

-The Good News:

- Very mild winter over most of US caused only minor winter storm losses.
- Lack of heavy winter precipitation limited spring flooding.
- The Bad News:
- Lack of heavy winter precipitation has exacerbated drought conditions.


## 2011's Most Expensive Catastrophes, Based on Insured Losses


**Includes $\$ 700$ million in flood losses insured through the National Flood Insurance Program.
Source: PCS except as noted by "*" which are sourced to Munich Re; Insurance Information Institute.

## Shifting Patterns in Insured Catastrophe Losses

Lately, Insured Claims from Tropical Storms in the US Have Decreased, but Other Causes of Catastrophes Have Risen

## The Changing Nature of Insured Catastrophe Losses in the US

## Historically Most of US Insured Catastrophe Losses Came From Hurricanes and Tropical Storms

- Hurricanes still account for the majority of the Top 15 catastrophes, but other types of catastrophes are displacing hurricanes
- Thunderstorms (including tornados, large and high winds) are the leading cause of insured loss from 2008-2011 and so far in 2012
- A trend/pattern appears to be emerging: More frequent and more intense thunderstorm activity
- It is unclear if the recent low level of landfalling tropical cyclones is part of a trend or a longer-term oscillation in activity


## Inflation-Adjusted U.S. Catastrophe Losses by Cause of Loss, 1990-2011:H1 ${ }^{1}$



1. Catastrophes are defined as events causing direct insured losses to property of $\$ 25$ million or more in 2009 dollars.
2. Excludes snow.
3. Does not include NFIP flood losses
4. Includes wildland fires
5. Includes civil disorders, water damage, utility disruptions and non-property losses such as those covered by workers compensation. Source: ISO's Property Claim Services Unit.

## U.S. Insured Catastrophe Losses by Cause of Loss, 2011 (\$ Millions)



Thunderstorms (Incl. Tornadoes , \$25,813

## 2011's insured loss distribution was unusual, with tornado and thunderstorm claims accounting for the vast majority of loss.

## The Changing Nature of Insured Catastrophe Losses in the US (cont'd)

 INFORMATION$\square$ Since 2008, insured thunderstorm losses totaled roughly $\$ 60$ billion vs. about $\$ 20$ billion for tropical events

- This means that insured catastrophe losses over the past 4 years have occurred predominantly in non-coastal areas
- Midwest, Plains, Mid-Atlantic regions have been hit hard
- Inland sections of coastal states have also been hit hard (e.g., AL, MS, NC)
- Higher Catastrophe Losses Are Pressuring Property Insurance Markets
- Rates are rising in many areas hit hard by catastrophe losses in recent years.


## Combined Ratio Points Associated with Catastrophe Losses: 1960 - 2011*

Combined
Ratio Points
$\left.\begin{array}{r}10 \\ 9 \\ 8 \\ 7 \\ 6 \\ 5 \\ 4 \\ 3 \\ 2 \\ 1 \\ 0\end{array}\right]$


Avg. CAT Loss Component of the
Combined Ratio
by Decade
1960s: 1.04 1970s: 0.85 1980s: 1.31 1990s: 3.39 2000s: 3.52 2010s: 6.70*

The Catastrophe Loss Component of Private Insurer Losses Has Increased Sharply in Recent Decades-Only in Part Due to Tropical Activity
*Insurance Information Institute estimates for 2010 and 2011 based on A.M. Best data.
Notes: Private carrier losses only. Excludes loss adjustment expenses and reinsurance reinstatement premiums. Figures are adjusted for losses ultimately paid by foreign insurers and reinsurers.
Sources: ISO; Insurance Information Institute.

## Number of Federal Disaster Declarations Associated wl Tropical Systems, 1990-2011



## The Share of Federal Disaster Declarations Associated with Tropical Activity Has Been Rising

[^3]
# 2011-12: Nowhere to Run, Nowhere to Hide 

## Most of the Country East of the Rockies Suffered Severe Weather in 2011

# Tornadoes, Thunderstorms, and Large Hailstorms 

## 2012 Is Off to a Worrisome Start, But a Repeat of 2011 Is Unlikely

## US Thunderstorm Loss Trends

Annual Totals 1980 - 2011 vs. First Six Months 2012

Average thunderstorm losses have increased over fivefold since 1980


## US Thunderstorm Loss Trends

January - June Only, 1980-2012
Thunderstorm losses for January - June 2012 were much lower than 2011, but still the third worst spring thunderstorm season loss in history.


## Increasing Variability: Number of Tornadoes, 1990 - 2012*



## Insurers Expect to Pay at Least \$2 Billion for the April 2011 Tornadoes in Alabama and a Similar Amount for the May Storms in Joplin

*Through June 2012, latest data after adjusting sightings to actual, as of Sept 10, 2012
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Storm Prediction Center, National Weather Service at http://www.spc.noaa.gov/climo/online/monthly/newm.html

## Number of Tornadoes, $1^{\text {st }}$ Six Months of the Year vs. Full Year, 2007 - 2012



Source: http://www.spc.noaa.gov/climo/online/monthly/newm.html ; Insurance Information Institute.

## Location of Tornadoes in the US, 2011



noan

## Preliminary Severe weather

Tornado Reports REPORT DATABASE (ROUGH LOG)

January 01, 2011 - December 27, 2011
NOAA/Storm Prediction Center Norman, Oklahoma
Updated: Tuesday December 27, 2011 16:35 CT

## Location of Tornadoes in the US, 2012*



## U.S. Winter Storm Loss Trends, 1980-2011



## Location of Large Hail Reports in the US, 2011



## Location of Large Hail Reports in the US, 2012*



PRELIMINARY SEVERE WEATHER REPORT DATABASE (ROUGH LOG)
NOAA/Storm Prediction Center Norman, Oklahoma
Hail Reports
January 01, 2012 - July 04, 2012
Updated: Mednesday July 04, $201208: 52$ CT
*Through J uly 4, 2012.

## Location of Wind Damage Reports in the US, 2011



## Location of Wind Damage Reports in the US, 2012*



## Severe Weather Reports, 2011



Severe Weather Reports REPORT DATABASE (ROUGH LOG) January 01, 2011 - December 27, 2011

NOAA/Storm Prediction Center Norman, Oklahoma Updated: Tuesday December 27, 2011 16:35 CT

## Severe Weather Reports, 2012*

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| PRELIMINARY SEVERE WEATHER | Severe Weather Reports |
| :--- | ---: |
| REPORT DATABASE (ROUGH LOG) | January 01, 2012 - July 04, 2012 |
| NOAA/Storm Prediction Center Norman, Oklahoma | Updated: Wednesday July 04, 2012 08:52 CT |

## Number of Severe Weather Reports in US, by Type, 2011



# June 29, 2012 Derecho: Traveled 600 Miles from Midwest to Mid-Atlantic 

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## 10-HOUR RADAR COMPOSITE (2PM - MI DNI GHT)

Milions of people were without power in sweltering heat for


## Wildfires

> Headline: "Growing Wildfire Risk Requires a More Granular, Nationwide Data Solution for P\&C Industry"

Subhead: "Wildfires used to be seasonal.

- They also used to be regional, pretty much limited to the more fire-prone areas of the country.
- Today, wildfires no longer have either characteristic-and that's not a good thing."

Callout: "At one point, wildfires were burning continuously in...Texas over an 18-month time span."

## Number of Acres Burned in Wildfires, 1980-2012



## Number of Federal Fire Management Assistance Declarations, 1953-2012*



Some fire management assistance declarations cover separate fires in a single state; for example, there were 3 declarations in 2012 for the "Oil Creek," "Squirrel Creek," and "Arapahoe" fires in Wyoming

[^4]
## Let's not forget about hurricanes

## Whether they make landfall, or not

## Number of Major \& Minor Hurricanes Making US Landfall, 1983-2012



# And did you noticeit's getting hotter (and, in some places, drier)? 

## Land/Ocean Average Temperatures vs. $\mathbf{2 0}^{\text {th }}$ Century Baseline*


*Northern Hemisphere, month of June each year, through 2012
Source: NOAA, National Climatic Data Center, accessed at http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/ghcnm/time-
series/index.php?surface=land ocean\&region=90S.90N\&month=6\&trend=true\&beg trend year=1880\&end trend year=2012\&su bmitted=Submit

## US Drought Conditions, June 26, 2012

## U.S. Drought Monitor

## June 26, 2012

Valid 7 a.m. EDT
 for forecast statements.

Released Thursday, June 28, 2012 Author: Richard Heim/L. Love-Brotak, NOAA/NESDIS/NCDC

## US Drought Conditions, July 31, 2012

## U.S. Drought Monitor

July 31, 2012
Valid 7 a.m. EDT


## And don't forget the flood risk (even though it's currently mostly federally insured)

## Number of Significant Flood Events,* 1978-2012



> We appear to have had at least one "significant" flood every year since 1978, averaging about 3 per year.

[^5]
## Upward Trend of Inflation-Adjusted Flood Loss Payments*, 1978-2012

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Millions in force
$\infty \boldsymbol{\sigma} \boldsymbol{\sigma} \boldsymbol{\sim} \boldsymbol{\sim}$


*Excluding 2005 (which was $\$ 20.4$ billion in 2011 dollars).
**Through July 31, 2012
Sources: FEMA, at http://www.fema.gov/policy-claim-statistics-flood-insurance/policy-claim-statistics-flood-insurance/policy-claim-13; Insurance Information Institute.

## Adjusted* Flood Loss Payments, 1978-2011**: No Discernible Trend



## Some of the increase shown here is due to growth in the number of policies

[^6]
## Summary and Conclusions

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The frequency and severity of most catastrophes seems to be increasing
In recent years, thunderstorms and other severe weather has caused most insured damage, supplanting tropical storms/ hurricanes

- 2011 was an especially expensive year for insured losses, and 2012 appears directionally similar
Q\&A


## Insurance Information Institute Online:

## www.ifi.org

## Thank you for your time and your attention!

## Upward Trend of Nominal Flood Loss Payments*, 1978-2012

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We appear to have had at least one "significant" flood every year since 1978, averaging 3 per year.
*Excluding 2005, which was $\$ 17,740.3$ million.
**Through July 31, 2012
Sources: FEMA, at http://www.fema.gov/policy-claim-statistics-flood-insurance/policy-claim-statistics-flood-insurance/policy-claim-13; Insurance Information Institute.

## Upward Trend of Inflation-Adjusted Flood Loss Payments*, 1978-2012



## Some of the increase shown here is due to growth in the number of policies

*Excluding 2005 (which was $\$ 20.4$ billion in 2011 dollars).
**Through July 31, 2012
Sources: FEMA, at http://www.fema.gov/policy-claim-statistics-flood-insurance/policy-claim-statistics-flood-insurance/policy-claim-13 ; Insurance Information Institute.


[^0]:    *Losses will actually be broken down into several "events" as determined by PCS. Includes losses for the period April 1 - June 30. Sources: PCS; Insurance Information Institute inflation adjustments.

[^1]:    *Through June 20, 2011. 2011 disaster figures are estimates; Figures include federally insured flood losses, where applicable.
    Sources: Swiss Re sigma 1/2011; AIR Worldwide, RMS, Eqecat; Insurance Information Institute.

[^2]:    Climatological events (Extreme temperature, drought, forest fire)

[^3]:    *Consists of data for 2010 and 2011.
    Source: Federal Emergency Management Administration: http://www.fema.gov/news/disaster totals annual.fema; Insurance Information Institute research.

[^4]:    *Through July 31, 2012. Sources: Federal Emergency Management Administration at
    http://www.fema.gov/disasters?field state tid=All\&field disaster type term tid=All\&field disaster declaration type value=All\&items per page=60\&=GO ; Insurance Information Institute.

[^5]:    *As determined by the NFIP, measured as an event with 1,500 or more paid losses "or occasionally one added for other reasons." **Through July 31, 2012
    Sources: FEMA, at http://www.fema.gov/policy-claim-statistics-flood-insurance/policy-claim-statistics-flood-insurance/policy-claim-13; Insurance Information Institute.

[^6]:    *per million policies in force, in 2011 dollars
    **Excluding 2005 (which was \$4,118 in 2011 dollars)
    Sources: FEMA, at http://www.fema.gov/policy-claim-statistics-flood-insurance/policy-claim-statistics-flood-insurance/policy-claim-13 ; Insurance Information Institute.

