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4-20-2011

Estimating Economic Loss from Flash Flooding: A Study of Porter County, IN

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Recommended Citation

Cornwell, Samantha, "Estimating Economic Loss from Flash Flooding: A Study of Porter County, IN" (2011). *Symposium on Undergraduate Research and Creative Expression (SOURCE)*. 1.
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Estimating Economic Loss from Flash Flooding: A Study of Porter County, IN

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This project attempted to determine what kinds of losses occurred during the flash floods of September 2009, caused by Hurricane Ike, in Northwest Indiana. Flash floods are dangerous due to how quickly they can overtake humans, houses, vehicles, and property. Flash floods caused Northwest Indiana to be under a State of Emergency, with drastic human and economic losses. Discovering where the problem is and defining the problem can help to prevent future losses. In addition, geographic software was analyzed for its helpfulness for this kind of problem. It was found that current software, including FEMA's HAZUS-FM, is not suitable for analyzing flash floods for a number of reasons. Adapting the software to flash flood parameters will be the most helpful adjustment for mitigating flood losses. This on-going project was presented at the 2011 Indiana Geographic Information Council Conference.

Information about the Author:

Samantha Cornwell is a senior environmental science and professional writing major who is pursuing a career in emergency management. She is interested in flooding and how to prevent losses during natural disasters.

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