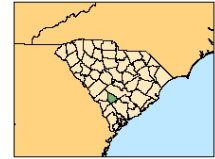


BAMBERG COUNTY, SC

Hazard Profile for 2008

An Excerpt from the State of South Carolina Hazard Assessment for 2008



I. Summary

Bamberg County is vulnerable to both natural (hurricanes/tropical storms) and technological (hazardous material incidents) hazards. Drought and winter weather produce the most monetary damages; however the recurrence interval is 15 years or more, making these relatively rare events. Wildfires, thunderstorms, and hazardous material incidents are some of the prominent hazards that regularly affect the county, based on past occurrences.

II. Social Vulnerability

Social vulnerability examines the socioeconomic and demographic character of places and helps to explain the variation in the population's ability to prepare for and respond to hazards. The Social Vulnerability Index (SoVI) is a statistical measure that compares social vulnerability to environmental hazards among places, and then visually displays these comparisons on a map. SoVI thus illustrates where there is uneven capacity for preparedness and response and where additional planning and response resources might be used most effectively to help residents. The variables used in determining the Social Vulnerability (SoVI) score along with how SoVI is calculated are available on the Hazards and Vulnerability Research Institute SoVI website (<http://www.sovius.org>).

A majority of the census tracts in Bamberg County exhibit moderately elevated levels of social vulnerability. Figure 1 provides maps of the Bamberg County depicting (on the left) social vulnerability by census tract and (on the right) cities and major roads.

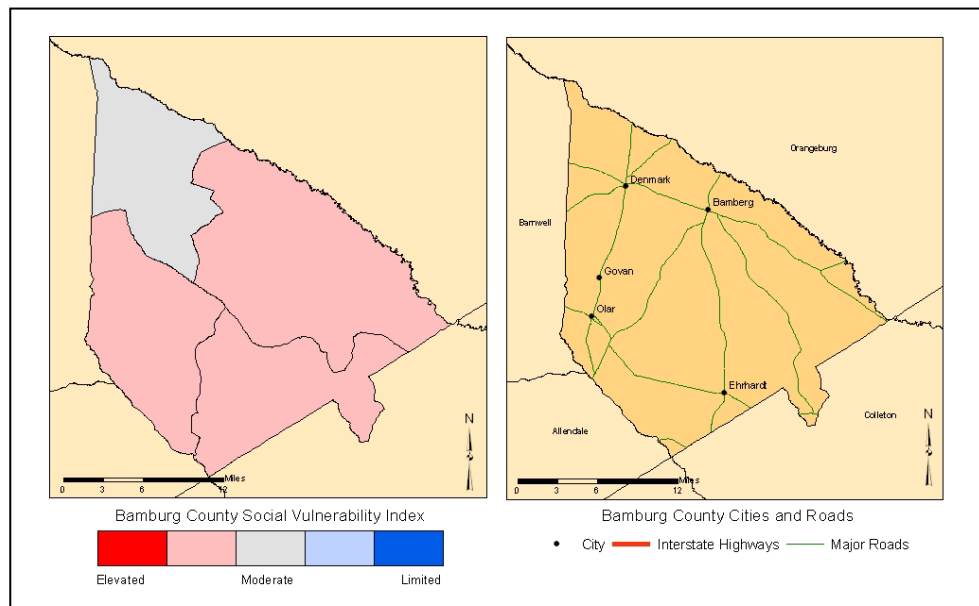


FIGURE 1. The Social Vulnerability for Bamberg County, SC by US Census tracts and a general reference map of Bamberg County.

III. Terms

Disaster – a singular hazard event that results in widespread human losses or has profound impacts on local environments.

Frequency – a calculated number showing the chance of an event occurring each year based on the historic record.

Hazard – the potential threat to humans as well as the impact of an event on society and the environment.

Recurrence – a calculated number that examines the expected time interval between events based on the historic record.

Risk – the likelihood or probability of occurrence of a hazard or adverse event.

Vulnerability – the potential for loss or the capacity to suffer harm from a hazard event.



South Carolina Emergency
Management Division -
Mitigation Division
E-mail: mbery@emd.sc.gov
<http://www.scemd.org>

Hazard & Vulnerability
Research Institute
University of South Carolina
E-mail: scutter.sc.edu
<http://webra.cas.sc.edu/hvri>



BAMBERG COUNTY HAZARD PROFILE 2008

IV. Hazard Identification

The estimated recurrence of a hazard is a useful element (based on event frequency) for distinguishing between infrequent hazards like earthquakes, and frequent hazards such as hazardous materials incidents or traffic accidents. The most common hazard events in Bamberg County are hazardous material accidents, severe thunderstorms and wind, and wildfires. Earthquakes and droughts have the lowest recurrence intervals. The recurrence and hazard frequency table can be seen in Table 1.

TABLE 1. The Hazard Profile for Bamberg County, SC.

| Hazard ^a | Number of Events | Years in Record | Recurrence Interval (Years) | Hazard Frequency (Percent Chance per Year) |
|--|------------------|-----------------|---|--|
| Coastal Events | | | | |
| Hurricane/Tropical Storm | 15 | 158 | 10.53 | 9.49 |
| Ocean & Lake Surf ^b | 1 | 16 | 16.00 | 6.25 |
| Waterspout | 0 | 16 | * | * |
| Dam Failure | - | - | - | - |
| Drought | 1 | 59 | 59.00 | 1.69 |
| Flood | 7 | 59 | 8.43 | 11.86 |
| Fog | 0 | 12 | * | * |
| Geophysical Events | | | | |
| Avalanche | 0 | 49 | * | * |
| Earthquake | 3 | 310 | 103.33 | 0.97 |
| Landslide | 0 | 49 | * | * |
| Human-Induced Events | | | | |
| Civil Disturbance | - | - | - | - |
| Hazardous Materials (Hazmat) | 28 | 22 | 0.79 | 127.27** |
| Nuclear Power Plant | 0 | 8 | * | * |
| Terrorism | 0 | 29 | * | * |
| Transportation (Motor Vehicle) | 2,144 | 10 | <0.50 | 21,440.00** |
| Severe Thunderstorm Events | | | | |
| Funnel Cloud | 0 | 16 | * | * |
| Hail | 43 | 59 | 1.37 | 72.88 |
| Heavy Precipitation | 0 | 15 | * | * |
| Lightning | 2 | 16 | 8.00 | 12.50 |
| Thunderstorm & Wind | 97 | 59 | 0.61 | 164.41** |
| Tornado | 17 | 59 | 3.47 | 28.81 |
| Temperature Extremes | 0 | 16 | * | * |
| Wildfire | 975 | 21 | <0.50 | 4,642.86** |
| Winter Weather (Snow & Ice) | 4 | 59 | 14.75 | 6.78 |
| ^a Data Sources: National Climatic Data Center (www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cgi-win/wcqi.dll?wwEvent-Storm); National Geophysical Data Center (www.ngdc.noaa.gov/hazard/) ^b Includes coastal flooding, coastal erosion, coastal winds | | | * Unable to calculate (cannot divide by zero) ** Percent is greater than 100.00, therefore hazard can be expected to occur more than once per year - Data Unavailable | |

V. Hazard Loss Information

When compared to South Carolina as a whole, Bamberg County generally has the same or less than the average number of loss-producing events from all hazards. Figure 2 (page 3) shows those hazards occurring in the county that exceeded the state mean in red type. Winter weather, wind, severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, lightning, and flooding are below the state mean indicating that these hazards historically have had less impact on Bamberg County than elsewhere in South Carolina.

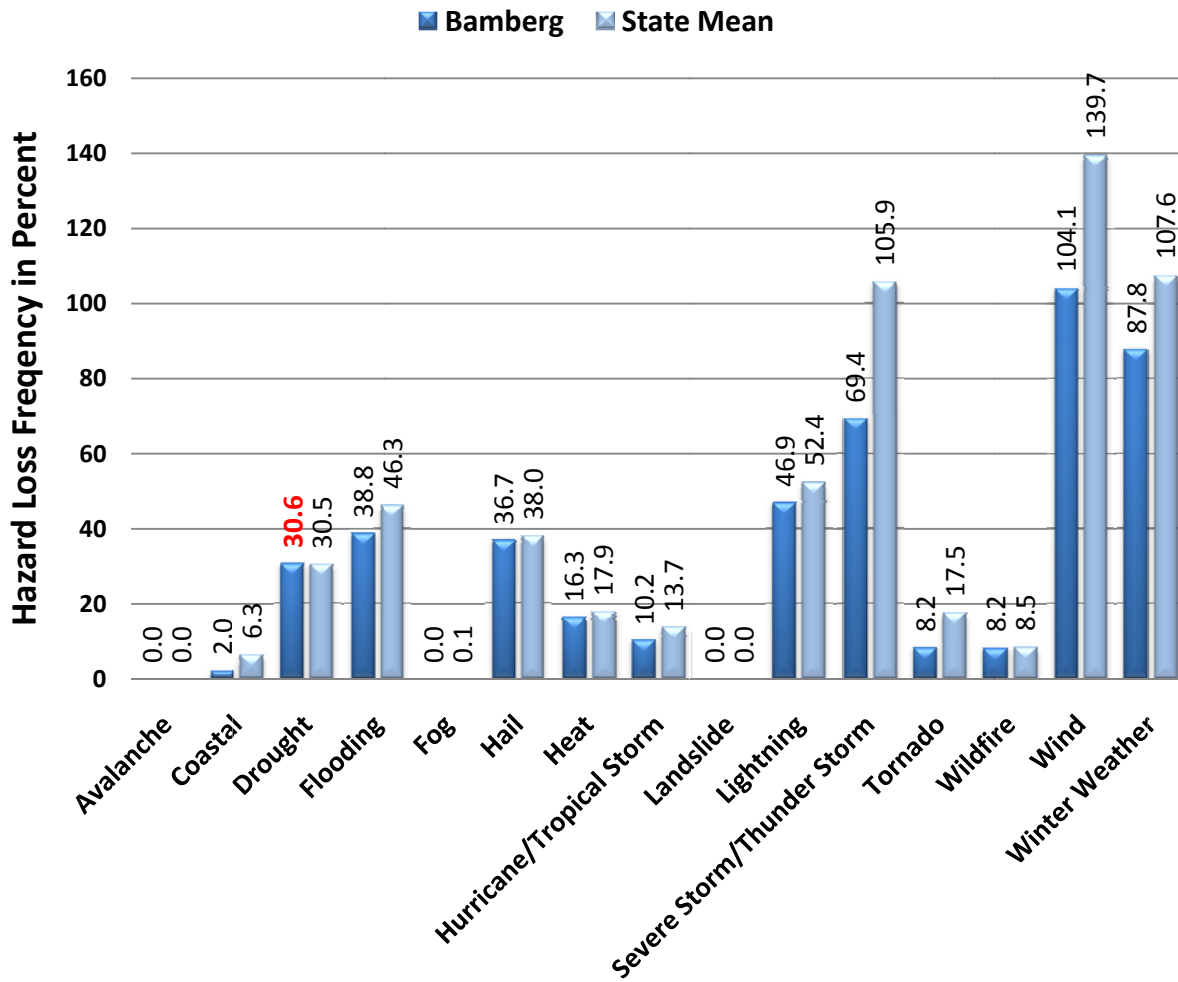


FIGURE 2. The historic loss causing hazard frequency between 1960 and 2008 for Bamberg County compared to South Carolina as reported in SHEL DUS. Percentage numbers indicated in red are when the county total exceeds the state mean. Also, a hazard that is identified in the National Climatic Data Center Storm Data reports as a multiple event hazard (flooding, winter weather, coastal storm), and given a statewide or regional location, the impact of the event is equally distributed amongst the counties involved.

Another way of determining how vulnerable a county is to particular hazards is by examining the amount of damage caused by past events. In Figure 3 (page 4), the cumulative amount of damage from 1960 to 2008 based on twelve hazard types from the Hazards and Vulnerability Research Institute’s SHEL DUS database – available at (<http://www.sheldus.org>). The historic losses in Bamberg County were around \$46 million and largely due to winter weather, drought, and heat. While significant for the county, these losses represent less than one percent of the state’s total during the same time period.

| Hazard | Total Damage (in 2008 dollars) | Percent of State |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Coastal | \$6,476 | 0.01% |
| Drought | \$14,058,478 | 2.26% |
| Flooding | \$488,478 | 0.33% |
| Hail | \$487,359 | 0.49% |
| Heat | \$11,286,643 | 2.26% |
| Hurricane/ Tropical Storm | \$981,533 | 0.02% |
| Lightning | \$1,140,805 | 2.26% |
| Severe Storm/ Thunder Storm | \$1,143,792 | 0.56% |
| Tornado | \$276,423 | 0.12% |
| Wildfire | \$334,042 | 2.18% |
| Wind | \$951,932 | 0.68% |
| Winter Weather | \$14,542,313 | 1.68% |
| Bamberg - Total | \$45,698,275 | 0.50% |

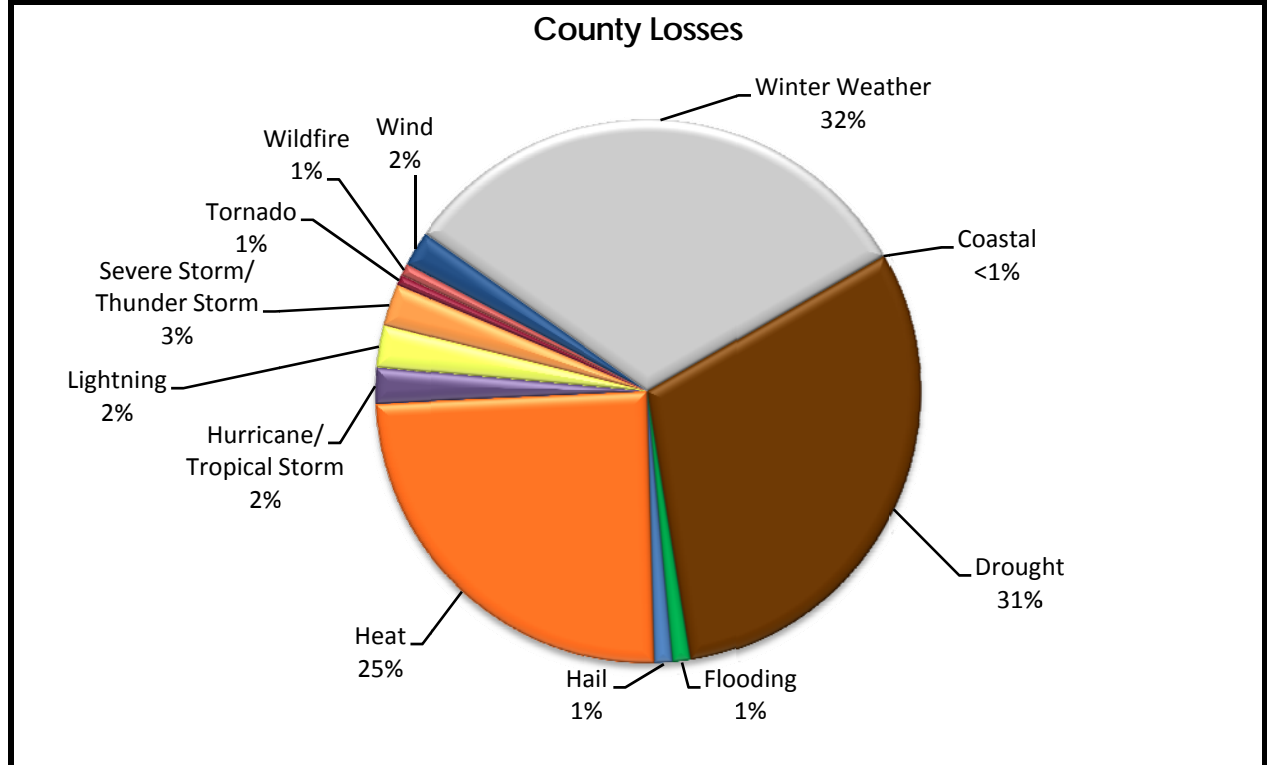


FIGURE 3. Historic Hazard Event Damages (property and crop) between 1960 and 2008 for Bamberg County, SC.