

# Brunswick hospital left roofless once more

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**SUPPLY** — For the second time in two years, part of the roof at Brunswick Community Hospital has blown off.

At midmorning Thursday, hospital officials and engineers were conducting their initial assessment of the damage. About 15,000-20,000 square feet of the roof blew off between midnight and 4 a.m. Thursday said Paul Schulte, hospital CEO. "We do not know how much of the remaining roof has been compromised," he said.

Insulation was visible in the damaged area. Inside, water was leaking from the ceiling and in some spots open sky was visible. Furniture was moved out of rooms and lined the hallways.

Damage, which affected a majority of the patient rooms, ranged from flooding to the collapse of ceilings. Repairs to the 60-bed hospital were under way Thursday evening. Mr. Schulte expects a temporary roof to be completed by today. He said the hospital plans to open Saturday.

About 4 a.m. Thursday, the hospital transferred its emergency room patients to Columbus County Hospital, Mr. Schulte said.

Ten other patients were evacuated Wednesday to New Hanover Regional Medical Center, Cape Fear Hospital and Pender Memorial Hospital. Mr. Schulte said the first priority was to get the emergency room up and running. "At this point, we think it suffered minimal damage," he said of the emergency room.

Meanwhile, emergencies in Brunswick County are being rerouted.

When the storm hit, a skeleton crew of 10 people staffed the hospital.

The hospital had discharged as many patients as possible before the storm arrived Wednesday.

"We efficiently and effectively put our evacuation plan in place. There were no injuries," Mr. Schulte said.

Mr. Schulte said damage from



**(Above) Steve Smith**, director of engineering for Brunswick Community Hospital, inspects the roof, which was torn off by Hurricane Floyd Thursday. Hurricane Bonnie tore the roof off last year and caused \$4 million in damage.

**(Left) Parts of the torn roof** lie in the hospital courtyard Thursday.

Hurricane Bonnie last year cost more than \$4 million. It is too early to say how much this repair will cost.

Cecil Logan, Brunswick County director of emergency management, said triage for emergency patients

could be handled at the government complex in Bolivia before patients are rerouted to appropriate hospitals.