Hugo
Catalyst for Change

March 17-18
Crown Reef Resort
Myrtle Beach, S.C.

1999 South Carolina Hurricane Conference
Presented by the
South Carolina Emergency Preparedness Division
Hugo Rips Through South Carolina

Sept. 14, 1989
Tropical Depression 11 becomes Hurricane Hugo, churning through the Atlantic with winds about 100 miles per hour.

Sept. 17
Hurricane Hugo moves through the French Island of Guadeloupe and the Virgin Islands.

Sept. 19
Hurricane Hugo moves towards the U.S. coast and the National Hurricane Center predicts landfall in two or three days.

Sept. 20, 1989
A hurricane warning is issued for the entire coast of South Carolina, as Hurricane Hugo intensifies several hundred miles northeast of Charleston. The Governor declares a state of emergency during the night and urges residents to take the threat of Hugo seriously. Along the coast, police, rescue, and emergency crews are placed on alert, and hospitals and storm shelters stockpile food, water, fuel and medications. School classes are suspended and public areas are closed. Residents in Charleston tape and board up windows, and sandbags are issued at City Hall.

Sept. 21, 1989
The Governor orders an evacuation of all peninsula and barrier islands, and all beachfront property. As heavy rains and wind pound the lower counties of the state, Hugo, still packing 130 mph winds, is located approximately 500 miles southeast of Charleston. Over 265,000 people are evacuated from the coast, and more than 60,000 people are sheltered. Coastal counties begin to report high winds, power outages, uprooted trees and heavy rain, and by nightfall, Hugo becomes a category four hurricane, as its winds increase to more than 135 mph. At approximately midnight, the eye of the hurricane makes landfall.

Sept. 22, 1989
After devastating the coast, the storm turns northward and continues on its path, heavy damages Santee, and eventually striking the states in York and Lancaster counties into South Carolina. Throughout the early morning, reports of damage stream in with requests for generators, supplies, equipment, rescue personnel, water and ice. Storm-related fatalities and injuries are reported. After a report by the Governor, the President issues a Disaster Declaration for the state. The declaration eventually includes 24 counties. Losses in the state total more than $6.5 billion.