



Elevation of New Hotel Under Construction Protects Investment

Full Mitigation Best Practice Story

Calvert County, Maryland

Chesapeake Beach, MD - The merciless winds and rains of Hurricane Isabel created a 28 feet tidal surge up Chesapeake Bay, flooding many communities along the Eastern Shore of Maryland. The town of Chesapeake Beach recorded wind speeds over 60 miles per hour and an estimated 80 miles per hour peak.



Chesapeake Beach Mayor Gerald Donovan said that his community emerged unscathed other than flooding at a local restaurant. Water came within 2 inches of flooding another popular restaurant in town but a new hotel, the Chesapeake Beach Hotel and Spa, under construction was undamaged.

Mayor Donovan attributes this success to following FEMA's "directive" to construct the hotel four feet off the ground. "People get upset with the Federal government," stated Mayor Donovan, "but hats off to FEMA. The hotel barely got a scratch."

The Chesapeake Beach Hotel and Spa opened in April 2004. The hotel has 72 rooms, retail and restaurant facilities. Protecting this \$6 million property from damages resulting from hurricanes and floods makes good business sense. Mayor Donovan said, "We went through a 100-year storm and didn't get wet. We're really thrilled."

Activity/Project Location

Geographical Area: **Single County in a State**

FEMA Region: **Region III**

State: **Maryland**

County: **Calvert County**

City/Community: **Chesapeake Beach**

Key Activity/Project Information

Sector: **Private**

Hazard Type: **Flooding; Hurricane/Tropical Storm**

Activity/Project Type: **Building Codes**

Structure Type: **Wood Frame**

Activity/Project Start Date: **05/2003**

Activity/Project End Date: **04/2004**

Funding Source: **Business Owner**

Funding Recipient: **Business/Industry**

Funding Recipient Name: **Business**

Activity/Project Economic Analysis

Cost: **\$6,000,000.00 (Estimated)**

Non FEMA Cost:

Activity/Project Disaster Information

Mitigation Resulted From Federal
Disaster? **Unknown**

Value Tested By Disaster? **Yes**

Tested By Federal Disaster #: **No Federal Disaster specified**

Year First Tested: **2004**

Repetitive Loss Property? **Unknown**

Reference URLs

Reference URL 1: <http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/>

Reference URL 2: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

Main Points

- While under construction, Hurricane Isabel struck the building.
- Elevation protected the hotel from being inundated with flood waters.
- Large business investment for the community was protected due to code enforcement.



The Chesapeake Beach Hotel was in the process of elevation and construction when Hurricane Isabel struck. The elevation saved the hotel.