HENRY MCMASTER, CHAIR
GOVERNOR

CURTIS M. LOFTIS, JR.
STATE TREASURER

BRIAN J. GAINES
COMPTROLLER GENERAL

SFAA
State Fiscal Accountability Authority

INSURANCE RESERVE FUND

POST OFFICE BOX 11066
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29211
(803) 737-0020
FAX: (803) 737-0042

HARVEY S. PEELER, JR.
CHAIRMAN, SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

BRUCE W. BANNISTER
CHAIRMAN, HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

GRANT GILLESPIE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 1, 2026

TO: All Policyholders

FROM: Anne Macon Smith, Director

Insurance Reserve Fund

RE: 2026 Hurricane Season

The 2026 hurricane season begins June 1st, with late August through mid-October representing the peak season in South Carolina. We ask that you prepare now by reviewing and updating your catastrophe plans and checking to make sure all needed supplies are in place. As it relates to potential property damage claims, we hope you find the following information helpful.

1. Please review your coverage to make sure you have adequate insurance to repair damaged buildings. We recommend insuring to 100% of replacement cost so that you will be in the best position to replace property in the event of a total loss. Insuring below 80% will result in a coinsurance penalty. As a reminder, flood claims are paid on an Actual Cash Value basis. If you have any questions about your values, please contact your field agent and make any needed adjustments now.
2. Whenever a watch *or* warning of any kind has been declared for **any part** of South Carolina, the IRF will suspend writing all new business or increases in coverage on a state-wide basis. The IRF may suspend binding authority in other circumstances in advance of the posting of any watch or warning at its discretion.
3. In the event your property sustains damage, make temporary repairs to "dry in" damaged buildings as quickly as possible. This will reduce subsequent water damage and speed the recovery process. Please retain documentation of these costs and any other invoices from vendors to document your loss to the IRF and possibly FEMA.
4. **DO NOT DELAY REPORTING YOUR CLAIM** waiting to collect all damage claim information. The IRF wants to set up your claim as quickly as possible to assign an adjuster to work with you. Additional damaged segments can always be added to your claim as they are discovered.
5. The days immediately after a storm are chaotic, and reporting claims may not be possible. Once communications are restored, please report claims *as soon as possible* in one of the following ways:

   - **E-Mail to**: newclaims@irf.sc.gov
   - **Fax to Catastrophe Claims: 803-737-0042**
   - **Telephone: 803-737-0020 (agents will assist you).**
   - **Regardless of how you report a claim, please have the following information:**
     Policy Number
     Segment Number (building number)
     Description of damage

***Please use the attached property claim reporting form. This form is also available at www.irf.sc.gov.**

We hope that South Carolina does not get hit by a hurricane, but if it does, be assured the IRF will be ready to help.