



***HURRICANE PREDICTION, OIL RIGS, AND INSURANCE:
KATRINA, RITA, AND BEYOND***

LUNCHEON BRIEFING INVITATION

Tuesday, October 11

12:00 noon to 1:30 pm, Senate Dirksen Building, Room 562

We all watched the recent images of Katrina and Rita marching in relentless slow motion toward the Gulf Coast and know of the destruction that followed. In this briefing, presenters will focus on some of the behind-the-scenes work that precedes and follows such storms in the prediction research community and the reinsurance and offshore industries.

In the days after Katrina, Senator DeMint stated, “After reviewing the actions taken by the National Weather Service, I am convinced that this was one of the most accurate hurricane predictions we have ever seen.” This briefing will give you a preview of the next generation hurricane model, scheduled to go into operation within the next few months. In a demonstration, you will see its Katrina prediction superimposed on the storm’s actual track. The industry representatives on the panel will speak to the applications of computer forecasts models in the reinsurance and offshore industries. Insurance losses will be staggering from these storms and a number of oil rigs in the Gulf were destroyed or badly damaged, with financial impacts not only to energy companies, but to the country as a whole. How do these industries use computer models for design, assessment and prediction in support of their work? What improvements need to be made as we face a possible cycle of intensifying storms?

Briefing Speakers:

- **Andrew Castaldi** is senior vice president for Catastrophe Perils for **Swiss Re**, leading a team of catastrophe management experts in the company’s property and casualty reinsurance operations in North, Central and South America. Mr. Castaldi’s team is composed of insurance professionals and physical scientists dedicated to the understanding and quantification of potential loss due to naturally occurring hazards. Swiss Re is one of the leading global reinsurers.
- **George Forristall**, principal of **Forristall Ocean Engineering, Inc.**, has extensive knowledge of the Loop Current and its eddies in the Gulf of Mexico, storm winds, waves, and currents. He is an expert on meteorological and oceanographic design specifications for offshore structures such as oil rigs. Dr. Forristall spent over 30 years as an offshore research engineer and advisor for **Shell Oil**, both nationally and internationally.
- **Greg Holland** is the director of the Mesoscale and Microscale Meteorology Division at the **National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR)**. His career spans hurricane forecasting, hurricane research, and unmanned aerial vehicle development. His publications include major contributions to six textbooks and forecast manuals, and recently, a co-authored paper connecting global warming to severe tropical storms.

**RSVP by Friday, October 7
to Gloria Kelly at (303) 497-2102 or gloriak@ucar.edu**

*Presented with the assistance of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee,
Subcommittee on Disaster Prevention and Prediction.*

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