

Munich Re Launches Automated Damage Detection for Improved Hurricane Response and Claims Experience

A suite of tools designed to revolutionize an insurance company's ability to respond to hurricane events offering:

- *Highly detailed damage predictions starting four days prior to an expected hurricane.*
- *Aerial views available immediately after the hurricane--even before claims adjusters can enter the affected area.*
- *Damage assessment from machine learning algorithm, so insurers know where and how severe property losses are, often before the policyholder is aware*

Munich Re today announced a new suite of hurricane response tools to help insurance companies assess widespread property damage after a hurricane and improve their customers' claims experience.

Developed by Munich Re's Remote Industries team, the Hurricane Response Suite empowers insurance companies with the fastest and most location-specific detection of property damage within days after a hurricane has occurred. Additional tools provide insurance companies with highly detailed predictions of damage days prior to the hurricane making landfall.

"The hurricane events from 2016 to 2018 resulted in a high volume of claims, a shortage of adjusters and higher loss adjustment expenses for insurance companies, with claims resolution delayed for many of those who were impacted," said Roman Buegler, head of THE LAB, Munich Re. "Our new suite of tools utilizes cutting-edge technology to help insurance companies improve the customer experience and free up adjusters to manage serious or complex losses, while allowing rapid settlement of more simple losses."

Munich Re's Remote Industries offers insurance companies the information they need to prioritize and steer claims adjuster resources, proactively reach out to affected policyholders and ultimately help mitigate losses. Remote Industries uses high-resolution aerial imagery and machine learning to help insurance companies predict potential property claims four days prior to an expected hurricane. Daily recalibrations and updates are provided until one day after the event. Two to three days following a hurricane, Remote Industries tasks the Geospatial Intelligence Center (GIC), an initiative of the National Insurance Crime Bureau, to begin collecting aerial imagery of hurricane damage. Remote Industries applies its machine learning algorithms on those aerial images to detect damaged individual property features, such as exterior building and roof damage. This insight and the Remote Industries web tool, a web-based interface that lets insurers adjust a claim without an on-site inspection, enable insurance companies to deploy their resources to the more complex claims and to start settling claims with only light roof damage without onsite adjustment, where appropriate. The same approach would also apply to major structural damage (i.e., a home that has been completely destroyed)

which allows the property portion of the claim to be settled without waiting for an adjuster to visit the site.

“More extreme and frequent catastrophe events have unfortunately become the norm, so our industry can’t rely on the way we’ve always responded to hurricanes,” said Buegler. “Having remote sensing capabilities is a way to step up our game for our insureds at a time when they need us most.”

Remote Industries is available throughout the United States, including the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, as well as in the Bahamas and the Cayman Islands. It is available to insurance companies for all residential properties and commercial properties with gabled roofs; mobile homes may also be considered. Remote Industries is provided by MR Service GmbH which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Munich Re. Additional information concerning the Remote Industries’ suite of products and services, can be found [here](#).

About Munich Re

Munich Re is one of the world’s leading providers of reinsurance, primary insurance and insurance-related risk solutions. The group consists of the reinsurance and ERGO business segments, as well as the capital investment company MEAG. Munich Re is globally active and operates in all lines of the insurance business. Since it was founded in 1880, Munich Re has been known for its unrivalled risk-related expertise and its sound financial position. It offers customers financial protection when faced with exceptional levels of damage – from the 1906 San Francisco earthquake through to the 2017 Atlantic hurricane season and to the California wildfires in 2018. Munich Re possesses outstanding innovative strength, which enables it to also provide coverage for extraordinary risks such as rocket launches, renewable energies, cyberattacks, or pandemics. The company is playing a key role in driving forward the digital transformation of the insurance industry, and in doing so has further expanded its ability to assess risks and the range of services that it offers. Its tailor-made solutions and close proximity to its customers make Munich Re one of the world’s most sought-after risk partners for businesses, institutions, and private individuals

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