A Review of FEMA Buyouts in the Delmarva Region since 1989

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Introduction
• The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), created the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program in 1989. In this program, severe repetitive loss properties are targeted for buyouts, that are coordinated by local governments and funded by FEMA.

• Utilizing FEMA’s Buyout database, I was able to analyze each state’s total number of buyouts by identifying the types of disastrous events that caused them from 1989 - 2017.

Methods
Analysis:
I analyzed FEMA’s buyout database to determine which disastrous events were responsible for causing the most buyouts within the Delmarva region of the United States (Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia). This analysis helped identify whether buyouts in the Delmarva region were primarily caused by earthquakes, explosions, flooding, hurricanes, slides, snow, storms, tidal surges, tornadoes, tropical systems, wildfires, or wind. It is important to note that a buyout could have been caused by two or more of these events, meaning that each event is not mutually exclusive.

Results
Hurricanes, storms, and flooding events were most commonly associated with buyouts in the Delmarva region.

Conclusion
A significant number of buyouts within the Delmarva region are caused by hurricanes, storms, and flooding events. Understanding these trends enables states in the Delmarva region to better predict buyout patterns, identify at-risk homes and areas, and determine where costs will need to be allocated in the future. Delaware, a state with a very small number of buyouts, will especially benefit from these findings, that will better equip them to predict, identify, and prepare for a larger volume of buyouts in the future.

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