



## Press Release

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### **‘Hazard & Risk Science Review 2006’ is published at Monte Carlo**

***Third edition of annual publication highlights ongoing debate among hazard scientists over the role of global warming in increased numbers of more powerful tropical cyclones in the Atlantic and the latest research into seismic hazard in the United States***

MONTE CARLO, 12 September 2006 – The 2006 edition of the annual publication, the *Hazard & Risk Science Review*, was published today at the Monte Carlo Reinsurance Rendezvous.

Researched and edited by Professor Bill McGuire, Director of the Benfield UCL Hazard Research Centre (BUHRC) and jointly sponsored by Benfield and PartnerRe, the Hazard & Risk Science Review 2006 provides a unique digest of over 75 scientific research papers published during the last 12 months focusing on the four major areas of natural hazards that are relevant to catastrophe (re)insurance – atmospheric, geological, hydrological and climate change.

The 2006 Review presents a detailed summary of the large volume of research studies undertaken into atmospheric hazards since last year’s record Atlantic hurricane season, including the ongoing lively debate over the role of global warming in increased numbers of more powerful tropical cyclones in the Atlantic. Also reviewed is a proposal for the use of an alternative system to the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale for categorising hurricanes which provides a better means of predicting their disaster potential.

Other key topics covered in this issue include:

- Seismic hazard risk to southern California and latest news from the New Madrid Seismic Zone
- Anthropogenic seafloor methane threatens submarine landslides and tsunamis – risk to coastal zones including offshore drilling and pipelines over next 100 years highlighted
- Innovative model for predicting volcanic eruptions unveiled.
- New economic flood risk map for Europe published
- Slowdown of Gulf Stream and associated currents posing cooling threat to the UK and Europe

Professor Bill McGuire, Professor of Geohazards at UCL and Director of the Benfield UCL Hazard Research Centre commented: “The critical element of the report focuses on the issue of climate change and tropical cyclone activity. While there are detractors, an emerging consensus suggests that rising sea surface temperatures may be causing Atlantic hurricanes to become more intense over time. If a climate change signal is already becoming apparent then prospects for progressively increased losses, as the Earth continues to warm, are high.”

Since its launch at Monte Carlo in 2004 over 9,000 copies of the first two editions of the Hazard & Risk Science Review have been distributed throughout the (re)insurance market. The Hazard & Risk Science Review 2006 is online at [www.benfieldhrc.org](http://www.benfieldhrc.org) and printed copies can be obtained by sending an email, with your full postal address, to [BHRC@benfieldgroup.com](mailto:BHRC@benfieldgroup.com) or calling (London) +44 (0) 20 7578 7180.

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**Notes to Editors:**

**Benfield UCL Hazard Research Centre:**

With sixty researchers and practitioners, Benfield UCL Hazard Research Centre is Europe's leading multidisciplinary academic hazard research centre. BUHRC comprises three groups: Geological Hazards, Meteorological Hazards & Seasonal Forecasting, and Disaster Studies & Management. The Centre is based at University College London, one of the world's leading universities and, along with Oxford and Cambridge, one of the UK's top three multi-faculty teaching and research institutions. BUHRC is sponsored by Benfield, the world's leading independent reinsurance and risk intermediary. [www.benfieldhrc.org](http://www.benfieldhrc.org)

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Benfield is the world's leading independent reinsurance and risk intermediary. Its customers include many of the world's major insurance and reinsurance companies as well as government entities and global corporations. Benfield operates from more than 40 locations worldwide. The company is listed on the London Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol BFD. [www.benfieldgroup.com](http://www.benfieldgroup.com)

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