Sinkholes are among the costliest perils for many insurers in Florida.

Sinkholes are a critical peril many insurers face in Florida. Even if you avoid writing business in “Sinkhole Alley”—the three counties most prone to these losses—sinkholes can occur anywhere in the state at any time, often resulting in expensive claims. And it can be difficult to invoke a sinkhole exclusion if the cause of property damage can’t be readily determined.

Understanding overall sinkhole activity at a location, including confirmed sinkholes on or near a property, is crucial for more informed underwriting and claims decisions. You can develop underwriting rules to help keep sinkhole exposures from hurting your bottom line, but without accurate data, the rules may not be effective. Obtaining this information on sinkhole locations takes time, and relying on public databases alone might be insufficient.

Accurate, reliable data for address-level sinkhole risk

Sinkhole Service provides accurate, reliable data so you can quickly assess sinkhole risk for any property in Florida.

The data is updated quarterly and contains more than 20 years of risk history. The information is based on high-quality engineering, geotechnical, and geological data collected during the investigation of actual sinkhole claims.

More than 400 sinkholes were reported in 7 months after Hurricane Irma hit Florida.¹
One service, two valuable scores
Sinkhole Service helps insurers mitigate sinkhole risk and guard against hidden sinkhole damage lurking at properties throughout Florida. Sinkhole Service provides two scores to help underwrite sinkhole coverage.

The Sinkhole Score (Figure 1) reflects the overall sinkhole risk for the specific property address and ranges from 1 (lowest risk — no confirmed sinkholes within ten miles) to 7 (highest risk — confirmed sinkhole at property).

The Area Score (Figure 2) identifies the number of confirmed sinkholes and reported earth movements within one mile of the property. It alerts you to high-risk areas with multiple confirmed sinkholes.

Underwriters can use Sinkhole Service for new and renewal business to help identify properties with previous sinkhole claims, assess potential for future claims, guide inspection decisions, and manage exposure in high-risk zones.

Flexible delivery methods
Delivery methods are available to adapt to your business operations, systems environment, and requirements, integrating the information into your rating, policywriting, or consumer quoting system.

Access Sinkhole Service:
- online through your browser or by connecting to Verisk using a web service API
- as a batch delivery
- through Verisk platforms: LOCATION® and ProMetrix®

1. Isabel Rosales, “Experts warn number of sinkholes in Florida have surged since Hurricane Irma hit,” abcactionnews.com, April 12, 2018