

Prevatt, D.O., G.M. Marcelle, I. Kelman, L.-A. Dupigny-Giroux and F.J. Masters. 2010. "On Reducing Hurricane Damage to Housing in the Caribbean Islands". Presentation and paper in the Proceedings of the 13th US-Japan Workshop on the Improvement of Structural Design and Construction Practices, 20-22 April 2010. Big Island, Hawai'i, USA.

Abstract:

Improving the structural resiliency of Caribbean homes has been largely ineffective, as was illustrated by damage to the vast majority of the Grenadian housing stock by Hurricane Ivan's winds in 2004. While international and regional interventions have provided emergency post-disaster aid, sustained Caribbean efforts to improve design and construction practices and foster sustainable mitigation activity are lacking, with the limited projects not gaining much traction in the construction sector. This paper provides an exploratory framework of the issues surrounding wind damage mitigation and the construction of residential structures to improve overall hurricane resilience in the CARICOM states. It synthesizes 35 years of research findings about Caribbean hazard mitigation initiatives, many of which are not available to researchers in other geographic settings. Critical avenues of future research to improve the resiliency of the CARICOM residential building stock are identified and prioritized.