

# Sinkhole Forms Under Orlando Resort

Orlando, FL  
August 11, 2013

On Sunday August 11, 2013, guests at a resort near Orlando, Florida woke to creaking sounds and breaking windows. About 10 minutes after the disturbances began a portion of the luxury resort villa was swallowed up by a sinkhole that had formed with little warning. Luckily, there was enough time to evacuate the resort and no one was injured, but guests lost most of their luggage, including purses and wallets, and the resort obviously suffered significant damage.

## 1 Problem

**What** Problem(s)  
**When** Date  
Time  
Differences  
**Where** Physical Location  
**Impact to the Goals**

Portion of resort collapsed into sinkhole, guests had to quickly
08/11/13
~11:30 pm
This region is known for sinkholes, ??
Orlando, FL

<b>Safety</b>	Potential for injuries or death
<b>Material</b>	Major damage to resort
<b>Material</b>	Guests lost most of their luggage
<b>Customer Service</b>	Negative press for resort and region

## 3 Solutions

There rarely are easy answers, but sinkholes seem to be a particularly tricky problem to solve. They are unpredictable and there is typically little warning before they develop. Prior to the resort being constructed, the site underwent geological testing and the ground was found to be stable. Well planned development and careful management of ground water may help limit the development and impact of sinkholes, but there will be strong economic pressure to develop more and more land in the booming Orlando area. Insurance seems to be the best solution to date. Florida law requires insurance companies to cover "catastrophic ground collapse". The only good thing about sinkholes is that they generally take a little time to form like the recent resort sinkhole. There will be property damage from sinkholes in the future, but hopefully there will also be time to evacuate everybody like there was this time.

## 2 Analysis

