Challenge: The southeastern part of South Carolina was struck by historic rainfall and flooding in early October 2015. Rainfall exceeded 25 inches in some areas. The flooding destroyed property, many people had to be rescued and, unfortunately, some deaths occurred. By October 3, 2015, President Obama had issued a Federal Disaster Declaration as a result of the catastrophic flooding.

Action: GSA Region 4 FAS Personal Property Management Division contacted the South Carolina State Agency for Surplus Property (SASP) to discuss the disaster declaration and types of property they require to help with the recovery effort. The SASP is a state-run organization that coordinates with the federal program for the donation of federal surplus property to public, tax-supported entities and eligible private nonprofit tax-exempt organizations. Any request for surplus government property in support of a Presidentially declared disaster takes precedence.

Solution: GSAXcess is a web-enabled platform that authorized customers can use to report, search, and select personal property. GSAXcess was updated to reflect the disaster which allowed the SC SASP to identify the property being requested as being in support of the disaster. The Personal Property Utilization and Donation team working closely with the SC SASP located and donated various types of critical disaster relief property. Following is a listing of some of the property that was donated in this effort: 6,664 Meals Ready to Eat (MREs), 1,000 restroom kits, 166 tents and tarps, 3 trailers, 4 generators, 27 pumps, 3 tractors, and 2 forklifts. In addition, 8 refrigerators were transferred to FEMA to use in South Carolina.

Result: In support of the SC disaster, the GSA donated surplus government property to the SASP valued at nearly $600,000 which provided critical disaster relief to the state. These donations allowed South Carolina to avoid spending their limited government funding on property that could be acquired through the Federal Surplus Property Program and redirect those dollars to other purposes.

Reference: Tom Hornsby, South Carolina State Agency for Surplus Property Director, 803-896-6889