



**Interview No.:** OH 3.8

**Title:** Sherry Gillespie Miller, Interview by Brooke Fox, 17 July 2009

**Interviewer:** Fox, Brooke

**Interviewee:** Miller, Sherry Gillespie

**Date:** 2009-07-17

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**Subject (Topical):**

Hurricane Hugo, 1989.

Medical University of South Carolina.

Medical University of South Carolina. Medical University Hospital.

Medical University of South Carolina. Medical University Hospital.  
Department of Nursing.

Medical University of South Carolina. Children's Hospital.

Hurricane Hugo, 1989--Personal narratives.

Disaster response and recovery.

**Subject (Names):** Miller, Sherry Gillespie

**Subject (Genre):** Oral histories.

Interviews.

**Summary:** Sherry Gillespie Miller, RN, MSN, was Director of Nursing for Pediatric and Maternal Infant Nursing in 1989. She begins her interview by describing the days leading up to Hurricane Hugo's landfall. She discusses the

decisions made by Children's Hospital nursing directors and administrators to ensure the safety of patients and staff. She describes boarding up the windows in both the neonatal intensive care and pediatric intensive care units. Miller describes how she and her staff maintained patient care throughout the storm. For example, evacuating patients from their rooms into the hallways because of fear of windows shattering, and helping NICU patients breathe using hand ventilators. She also describes the evacuation of adult patients out of the main hospital into the Children's Hospital because of power outages. The interview includes discussions on staff and patients' reactions to the storm, damage sustained by the hospital, recovery efforts, and Miller's thoughts on MUSC's disaster planning.

**Collection:** Waring Historical Library Oral History Collection

**Contributing Institution:** Waring Historical Library (MUSC)

**Media Type:** Oral Histories

**Note:** This interview is part of the "Hurricane Hugo Oral History Project" series. These interviews document the experiences of administrators, hospital personnel, and maintenance staff who worked on the MUSC campus during landfall of Hurricane Hugo, September 21-22, 1989. Eleven interviews were conducted between June and August 2009 in preparation for the development of a physical and online exhibit, "MUSC Remembers Hurricane Hugo." The online exhibit is available at <http://waring.library.musc.edu/exhibits/hurricanehugo/>.

Transcripts has been edited by the interviewee.

In cases where the audio and the transcript differ, the audio is provided for background use only.

See also: Collection # OH 3 and OH 3.1-3.11

**Language:** English

**Digitization Specifications:** Audio recorded using a Marantz digital recorder. Archival masters are .wav files.

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**Series Title:** Hurricane Hugo Oral History Project, 2009

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**Transcript:** 17 p.