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Comment

Interactive comment on “Uncovering the 2010 Haiti earthquake death toll” by J. E. Daniell et al.

J. E. Daniell et al.

j.e.daniell@gmail.com

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Response to Reviewer comments with respect to “Uncovering the Haiti Earthquake Death Toll”.

SC: C390 – Comment 1: This study has been added in. Our original paper had problems in another journal system, due to editor issues, and was originally submitted in early 2011, thus we updated a few of the journal articles written since (Ambraseys & Bilham, 2011), however we did not add this Kolbe article. It has now been added in to the methodology. It represents one of the most methodical studies in place along with the Melissen study directly after the event quoted by Bilham and Ambraseys, as well as many other authors. The Kolbe et al. study gives a good insight into a potential death toll, but is slightly skewed to higher figures given the location of households in the central Port-au-Prince area, with their destroyed buildings figure being around 35% higher

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than the average (approx.. 80,000 red tagged buildings (assume mostly destroyed) vs. 117,000 destroyed buildings in Kolbe et al. (2010). One could argue that the death toll in the greater Port-au-Prince area, could then be 68% of the 159,000 and then an additional 1,000 added for those fatalities outside of the Greater Port-au-Prince area (includes most of Ouest province). This would result in a value of ca. 110,000 deaths in total for the event. Interestingly, this then correlates well with the last SNGRD rating of 3rd February before the addition of the 100,000 deaths.

Comment 2: Thankyou for the detailed description, we have corrected this. We had used a description that had been made in a newspaper article, but this was incorrect. We have updated the paper to be the same description as the original survey, with the Haitian Government recognised to a greater extent rather than referring to them as “Haitian”, now “Haitian Government”.

Interactive comment on Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 1, 1913, 2013.

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