

Interactive comment on “Direct local building inundation depth determination in 3D point clouds generated from user-generated flood images” by Luisa Griesbaum et al.

G. J.-P. Schumann (Referee)

gjpschumann@gmail.com

Received and published: 30 April 2017

This paper describes the use of smart-phone (or hand-held) camera-acquired flood and non-flood images to extract waterlines from buildings and extract flood water height as well as inundation depths.

It was a real pleasure to read this paper. It is technically innovative, very well written and easy enough to follow even for a non-technical reader, and it gives a lot of references and a complete literature review at the beginning which I appreciate very much. The figures are of excellent quality.

Actually, it is sad to see that such papers (referring to its format and structure as well

C1

as style) are becoming a rare bread among the overwhelming literature nowadays. I think this paper should be revised with attention to only a few minor comments:

- In the abstract, the authors should refer to the actual accuracy of the results obtained
- In the introduction, the authors mention the application of flood disaster response and recovery. In my opinion, the authors should emphasize this goal/application more and I also think therefore the authors should try later on in the paper to give to refer to timeliness of the processing. How long does their method take to generate the information?
- Also, is there an open-source style software bundle that processes images into the information for response, recovery teams etc? I completely understand if the later is not available but are there any plans to do that? Given that the whole processing chain is quite technical but it is aimed at non-technical applications too, I think this is an important step to consider

Interactive comment on Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., doi:10.5194/nhess-2017-93, 2017.

C2