

Central HAZUS-MH Users Group Meeting October 27, 2006

Participants

- Kevin Mickey, Indiana
- Jamie Caplan
- Sheryl Rothinger, Illinois
- Glen O'Neil, Michigan
- Jeremy Klein, Minnesota
- Jonathan Marsch, FEMA Region V
- Rick Warren, Ohio
- Tony Bellovary, Wisconsin
- Kent McLaughlin, Wisconsin

What's New with HAZUS-MH MR2

- HAZUS-MH MR2 Patch should be forthcoming in the next week or two. This patch addresses some issues in the flood model, issues related to importing HAZUS MR1 study regions, and issues related to the inventory editing and update tools.
- FEMA warehouse is burning new copies of software at this time. Anyone that has recently ordered HAZUS-MH and not received the software should resubmit the order. The new copies of HAZUS-MH include repaired copies of state data for Indiana, New York, and New Mexico.

HAZUS-MH MR3 Plans

- Due out in January/February 2006 (pending release of ArcGIS 9.2)
- MR3 will be ArcGIS 9.2 compatible
- Rapid Loss Assessment Tool** – This will be a new tool in the flood model that provides the ability to directly apply a user developed flood depth grids to define flood extent and depth. The new tool is also anticipated to offer the ability to allow a user to provide only a flood polygon boundary and a DEM from which a flood depth grid will then be generated. This will provide important additional functionality to the already existing options that HAZUS-MH provides. Additional information about these new enhancements is anticipated in the coming weeks.

HAZUS-MH MR4 Plans

- Due out approximately June/July 2007
- Comprehensive Data Management System** – This new set of tools will streamline many of the inventory update tools currently available in HAZUS-MH. It will also provide an interface for updating both the state and study region databases.

New HAZUS-MH Courses

- Comprehensive Data Management for HAZUS-MH – Pilot was offered at EMI in September 2006. This course provides in depth instruction on how to replace the HAZUS-MH provided inventory with local data.
- Virtual HAZUS-MH courses are likely in the not too distant future. It is anticipated that these will be made available thru the ESRI Virtual Campus along with the existing ‘HAZUS-MH for Decision Makers’ webinar.

Update on State Activities in the CHUG Region

Wisconsin

- Kent MacLaughlin from Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) presented at the Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA) Fall Regional Meeting (Friday Session) on HAZUS-MH in WI.
<http://www.wlia.org/resources/oct06agenda.pdf>.

Ohio

- Rick has been working on a level 1 flood analysis on the Ohio River. So far he is finding results from the study that compare favorably with anticipated losses. Jamie requested that Rick develop a success story at the conclusion of the project.

Michigan

- The Institute of Water Research recently finished a coastal flood project and they are considering expanding the project to incorporate HAZUS-MH.

Minnesota

- Nothing to report

Illinois

- Sheryl is working on training GIS users. Their initial project will be on the Illinois River. They are working on a 100 year flood – timeline to be determined.

Indiana

- Indiana has scheduled 9 HAZUS-MH courses between now and the end of March 2007. Those courses are listed below.
 - Basic HAZUS-Multihazards – November 30-December 1, 2006 and January 16-18, 2007
 - Advanced HAZUS-MH Flood Modeling - Dates: December 18 to 20 2006 (Indianapolis) and November 9-10 (Ball State University)
 - HAZUS-MH Data Management - Dates: January 23 to 25, 2007
 - Introduction to ArcGIS for Emergency Managers - February 8 to 9, 2007

- Advanced HAZUS-MH Earthquake Modeling - February 28 to March 2, 2007
- Using HAZUS-MH for Post Disaster Field Operations - March 5-6, 2007
- It is anticipated that two additional courses will be added in the near future that will be held in the far northern and far southern parts of the state.
- Indiana is continuing to make progress on level II HAZUS-MH analysis in 35 Indiana counties. They have also completed a 100 year flood assessment using HAZUS-MH.

Update on other HAZUS-MH Related Activities Around the Country

- National HAZUS Users Group Meeting – in conjunction with ESRI conference in June 2007
- Jamie is working on a mission statement that would be applicable to all user groups in the country.
- HAZUS.ORG will include a web-based database to keep track of our members. This should be available in a couple of months. Jaime is redesigning each user group web page that is on HAZUS.org. We will be able to submit material to Jamie and/or Rich Daviess. The goal is to update the web sites on a monthly basis.
- Jonathan indicated that FEMA HQ is contracting out a national level I earthquake assessment on a county by county analysis for annualized losses.
- North Carolina is using HAZUS to analyze wildfires.
- Jonathan indicated that the Region is encouraging the states to
- Jamie reported that there will be an opportunity on November 7 for HAZUS-MH Flood model users to present their questions directly to the Flood Model developers during a conference call scheduled on that date. People interested in participating in that call are asked to let Jamie know as soon as possible.

Plans for 2007 for the CHUG

- The following ideas were presented related to possible roles that the CHUG could serve in the region. Examples include the following:
 - Best Practices
 - Kevin will develop a document that outlines the type of data that needs to be collected and integrated into a study for studies at different scales.
 - Kevin will develop a document that outlines the type of information that needs to be developed to support a HAZUS-MH project. Examples include the study author, inventory improvements, hazard improvements, etc. It is anticipated that this document will have national applicability.

- Regional Presentation

- It was suggested that a region focused 'HAZUS-MH for Decision Makers' presentation should be prepared that consists of a core set of slides - that could be nationally applicable – that are supplemented by region specific slides that explain applicability of the tool to the region, projects within the region, etc. This presentation could be updated on an ongoing basis as needed. Jamie is working on the core slides at this time.

- Stakeholders

- It was suggested that the CHUG attempt to expand the strategic group as well as the user group to include representation from additional user sectors such as academia, the private sector, and so forth.

Next Meeting

- November 21, 2007 from 11:30 to 12:30 pm EDT – phone dial-in to be defined.
- The primary topic of the next meeting will defining goals for the next meeting as well as steps that need to be taken, and assignments necessary to achieve those goals.