

Central HAZUS-MH Users Group Meeting

March 26, 2007

Attendees

- Shane Hubbard (Indiana, The Polis Center)
- J.P. Marsch (FEMA Region V)
- Jenn School (FEMA Region V)
- Roxanne Gray (Wisconsin Emergency Management)
- Kent MacLaughlin (Wisconsin Emergency Management)
- Jeremy Klein (Minnesota Emergency Management)
- Rick Warren (Ohio Emergency Management)
- Martin Brown (Gary Sanitary District, Indiana)
- Kevin Mickey (Indiana, The Polis Center)
- Jamie Caplan, (Caplan Associates)
- Jeff Bloomquist (Farm Service Agency, Minnesota)

Status of HAZUS-MH MR3

Kevin M reported that HAZUS-MH MR3 is anticipated to be publicly released in mid-June and that the Comprehensive Data Management System should be released in mid-September. A list of specifications for these upcoming releases should be available in the near future and will be circulated at that time. Major features are presently anticipated to include the following.

HAZUS-MH MR3

- ArcGIS 9.2 compliance
- Major enhancements in flood model including ability to use a user-developed flood grid or to provide a flood boundary and overlay that on a DEM to produce a flood grid that follows the boundary.
- Optimized GBS processing in the flood model
- Updated valuations for GBS data

Comprehensive Data Management System

- Tools that will streamline the process of updating the majority of the HAZUS-MH state and study region inventory.

State Reports

Minnesota -

Jeremy K reported that a HAZUS-MH presentation was delivered at the Minnesota Governors Conference on March 14, 2007. 26 participants attended the session with a good mix of representation from federal, state, and local agencies. Jeremy also reported that positive feedback from the attendees has filtered thru to Minnesota EMA management.

FEMA Region V is sponsoring an Advanced HAZUS-MH Flood course in Duluth, May from May 15 to 17, 2007. There are currently 26 registered. However, there are still 6 seats available. Registration can be completed online at http://www.dps.state.mn.us/dhsem/HSEM_Training/Hsemindex.asp

Wisconsin -

Roxanne G reported that Wisconsin has submitted a 2007 PDM grant request to contract with the University of Wisconsin and The Polis Center to complete a statewide flood and coastal risk assessment using HAZUS-MH. She anticipates hearing a response end of April or early May.

Kent M reported that he has completed a level 1 analysis of 15 counties in Wisconsin to date. They have had some issues during this process that they have forwarded to the flood developers for assistance. Specifically, only half of the flood analysis for the counties appears to be completing based on the lack of flood maps showing in the HAZUS-MH study region. However, he also reported that they are getting results which implies that perhaps the hazard is completing and being used to produce loss estimates even though it is not showing on the map. Also, in some cases along the Mississippi the model is generating flood maps that imply that water is not present in a constantly flowing stream.

Kent also reported that he is preparing a list of 'wants and desires' for MR4. He will send that out to the CHUG for

comment and then the list will be forwarded to FEMA for consideration.

Ohio -

Rick W reported that the state held a mitigation planning course last week during which they promoted HAZUS-MH quite heavily as a tool that can aid in the planning process. They also promoted opportunities for HAZUS-MH training at EMI and within Region V.

A HAZUS-MH presentation will be delivered at the Ohio Floodplain Conference in August.

Indiana

Martin reported that he and his team are looking into how effectively HAZUS-MH models recent flooding that has occurred in the Gary, Indiana area.

Indiana, thru the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, has recently completed several HAZUS-MH courses. At present, the only scheduled course yet to be completed is a Basic HAZUS-MH course being held in Lawrenceburg, Indiana from March 27 to 29. Additional course offerings will be held this year and should be announced in the next 2-3 months.

Illinois

No Report

Michigan

No Report

HAZUS Regional Point of Contact Call

Jonathan M reported that a FEMA HAZUS-MH point of contact call was held last week. Major highlights of that call included the following.

- FEMA Region VIII has been working on a validation study for the Red River area in North Dakota. They are comparing losses last year with losses in 1990s. Jonathan will be talking with the study coordinator, Doug Bausch, to see what type of results they have found.
- A nation-wide level 1 earthquake annualized loss analysis has been completed by FEMA Headquarters. Results from that study are not yet available and the release date is to be determined. More information about the release date will be circulated as it is known.

HAZUS-MH Users Conference

The first annual HAZUS-MH National Users Conference will be held in San Diego, California on June 19 and 20, 2007. The HAZUS-MH Conference will be held concurrently with the ESRI International Users Conference being held that same week. No additional cost is required for the HAZUS-MH Conference. Information about the conference, including how to sign up can be found at http://www.esri.com/events/uc/hazus_07.html. Committee members are encouraged to attend and also to tell their constituents about this important opportunity.

HAZUSNET Listserv

Committee members were informed about the existence of HAZUSNET, a national listserv of HAZUS-MH users. The purpose of this listserv is similar to the CHUG listserv - it is used to discuss issues of concern, new opportunities, etc related to the user community. The difference between the two listservs is that HAZUSNET is national in scope. Sign-up for this listserv can be completed at <http://www.nesec.org/hazusnet.cfm>.

HAZUS.ORG

Jamie C reported that HAZUS.ORG has been completely redesigned and now offers a wide range of resources to the HAZUS-MH user community.

One of the new features of this site is a user success story component. It was requested that those committee members who have completed successful HAZUS-MH studies to document them on HAZUS.ORG.

National Users Group Call

There will be a National HAZUS-MH Users call on Wednesday, March 27, 2007 at 5 PM EST. This call will include an opportunity for participants to talk with the hurricane model developers to learn about new capabilities of that model and to ask questions about existing features. Interested persons can dial-in at 1-800-320-7330 pin# 115085.

HAZUS-MH Project Documentation Best Practices

The group briefly discussed the final draft of the HAZUS-MH Project Documentation Best Practices document. Comments from the call will be integrated into the document. The final draft was circulated immediately prior to the call, so Committee members will review the draft and circulate comments to the group by noon on the 27th. A final version will then be circulated shortly thereafter.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is schedule for Thursday, April 26th, 2007 at 3:00 CT / 11:30 EDT. A dial-in number will be circulated in the near future.