

Central HAZUS-MH Users Group Meeting

March 9, 2009

11 am to noon EST

Attendees

- Jaime Caplan (National HUG Facilitator)
- Jonathan Marsch, (FEMA Region V)
- Kevin Mickey (Indiana, The Polis Center)
- Dawn Toroc (City of Lawrence, Indianapolis)
- Gerald Nieman (Indiana Department of Transportation)
- Jeff Bloomquist (USDA Farm Service Agency)
- Jim McClosky (MN Homeland Security and Emergency Management)
- Jared Owen (Illinois Dept of Emergency Management)
- Jonathan Remo (Southern Illinois University)
- Jonathan Sorg (Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Water)
- Jeff Stone (Association of State Floodplain Managers)
- Tom McClintock (University of Wisconsin Madison)
- Steve Ventura (Wisconsin Emergency Management Agency)
- Robby Stoikes, (Wisconsin Emergency Management Agency)
- Mike Sobocinski (Michigan State Police)
- Andrea Porter (EPA Region V)
- David Wilson (EPA Region V)

Software Patches and Update Schedule

- HAZUS-MH MR3 Patch 3 - the release of this patch is currently anticipated in May/June 2009. Patch 3 is anticipated to be compatible with ArcGIS 9.3 Service Pack 1 and Windows XP SP3.
- HAZUS-MH MR4 and CDMS Version 2.5 - anticipated to be released prior to the HAZUS National Conference in August 2009. This release is anticipated to provide support for Windows Vista. There will also be significant changes in the flood model (i.e. addition of dam/levee modeling capabilities) and the earthquake model (enhancement of the fire following model) as well as other new features and enhancements.

- It was emphasized that software release dates are subject to change.
- Kevin M reported that the new anticipated HAZUS Virtual Data Management course release date on the ESRI Virtual Campus has been changed to June/July 2009.

HAZUS Activity Reports

FEMA Region V

- Jonathan reported that FEMA Region V is still continuing with the development of a regional GIS Center in their Chicago office. Lee Traeger is assigned to this task and is working on issues related to data sharing.
- FEMA Region V is interested in acquiring information on any flooding studies being done on the Red River in Minnesota. Please contact Jonathan Marsch with this information at Jonathan.Marsch@dhs.gov.

US EPA - Region V

- Dave Wilson indicated that the EPA is very interested in using HAZUS to estimate flooding risks near Superfund sites in areas where there is no FIRM mapping available.

Illinois

- Jared Owen reported that IEMA has hired a new GIS professional, Ron Steward, in their agency. He has been HAZUS trained.
- The Illinois Emergency Management Agency, in collaboration with The Polis Center, Southern Illinois University, the University of Illinois, and Augustana University, has completed or is in the process of working on hazard mitigation plans for 32 counties in the state.

Indiana

- The Indiana Department of Homeland Security, in collaboration with The Polis Center, has completed or is in the process of completing hazard mitigation plans for 67 counties. 32 plans have been FEMA approved. 7 are under review and the remainder are in progress.

- The Indianapolis FEMA Joint Field Office completed several EMI authorized HAZUS field courses in December and January 2008-2009. All courses were taught by Polis staff and participants included state, federal, and local representatives from both Indiana and Illinois. The training was funded by a combination of FEMA JFO dollars and Indiana Department of Homeland Security funding. Kevin M noted that JFO HAZUS courses are becoming increasingly common across the United States. HAZUS courses are scheduled at JFOs in Texas and Washington in the April/May timeframe.

Michigan

- Mike Sobocinski reported that Michigan is exploring the new capabilities of HAZUS to see if it is more efficient than in the past. They are considering using HAZUS for enhancing their local mitigation planning process.

Minnesota

- Jim M reported that a presentation will be made to the Governor's Council on GIS, Emergency Preparedness Committee, regarding forming a HUG of federal, state, and local agencies.
- Jeff Bloomquist also added that the USDA Farm Service Agency will be doing a joint project integrating local agricultural data into HAZUS. They plan to work with other USDA agencies to develop a best practice document for HAZUS users interested in modeling agricultural impacts of flooding.

Ohio

- Jonathan indicated that Ohio is currently dealing with significant flooding issues. Therefore they are not currently doing much work with HAZUS.

Wisconsin

- Tom reported that since September, Wisconsin has finished the statewide mitigation plan for flooding using HAZUS. This project was done in collaboration with Wisconsin Emergency Management, The Polis Center, and the University of Wisconsin Madison.

CHUG User Group Reorganization and Expansion

The following chart identifies the state level HAZUS User Group Coordinators that were selected for the CHUG region during this meeting. Thank you to everyone that agreed to assume this important role!

State	HAZUS User Group Coordinator(s)
Indiana	Kevin Mickey The Polis Center Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis Phone: 317.278.2582 or 317.371.4479 Fax: 317.278.1830 kmickey@iupui.edu
Illinois	Dr. Jonathan Remo Researcher and Geospatial Project Manager Environmental Resource and Policy Program Department of Geology 206 Parkinson Laboratory Southern Illinois University, Carbondale Carbondale, IL 62901-4324 Phone: 618.453.7370 Fax: 618.453.7393
Wisconsin	Tom McClintock GIS Training Manager UW LICGF University of Wisconsin -Madison Land Information & Computer Graphics Facility 550 Babcock Dr, Rm B102, Madison, WI 53706 Phone: 608-263-5534, Fax: 608-262-2500 tmcclin@wisc.edu
Minnesota	Jim McClosky Minnesota Homeland Security and Emergency Management Phone: 651.201.7455 Fax: 651.296.0459 james.mcclosky@state.mn.us
Michigan	TBD

State	HAZUS User Group Coordinator(s)
Ohio	<p>Jonathan Sorg, CFM Environmental Specialist Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Water Floodplain Management Program 2045 Morse Road Columbus, Ohio 43229 Phone: (614) 265-6780 Fax: (614) 265-6767 Jonathan.Sorg@dnr.state.oh.us</p> <p>And</p> <p>Bradley A. Kyser Mitigation Specialist Ohio EMA-Mitigation Branch 614-799-3531 bakyser@dps.state.oh.us</p>

As discussed in December, the following information defines the roles of State HAZUS User Group Coordinators and a redefined role for the Central HAZUS Users Group Steering Committee.

State HAZUS User Group Coordinators

- Act as the primary point of contact for each state for HAZUS users within that state.
- Coordinate and facilitate HAZUS-MH activities within the state to include meetings and conferences.
- Participate in the national HAZUS user group chairs call
- Serve as a member of the Central HAZUS Users Group Steering Committee

Central HAZUS Users Group Steering Committee

- Membership is composed of the state HAZUS User Group Coordinators, FEMA Region V representatives, and other representatives as appropriate
- Identifies major initiatives within the region that impact all of the states in the region

- Serves as the conduit between FEMA Region V and the state user groups

Web Page for Central HAZUS Users Group

- Gerald Nieman has graciously offered to be the webmaster for the CHUG. This website can be viewed at <http://www.usehazus.com/chug/>.
- The CHUG site now includes a forum for discussion issues of interest to the region.
- Resources to be posted on the CHUG site will include CHUG meeting minutes, best practices, state points of contact for HAZUS and other resources as requested and appropriate.

Best Practices

- Jon Remo and Kevin Mickey are working on best practices / guidelines related to earthquake and flood modeling in the Midwest. If anyone has any suggestions or wishes to provide input to that process, please contact either Jon or Kevin.
- Jamie Caplan reported that Iowa had very positive experiences with HAZUS in the recent Midwest flooding. A useful document that reports on their findings is available at <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=3542>.

HAZUS Trained Professional and HAZUS Trained Practitioner Certificate Programs

- Kevin M reminded the group that they need to

National HAZUS Conference Update

- The 2009 National HAZUS Conference will be held in Raleigh, North Carolina on August 10 (1 to 8 pm) August 11 (all day) and August 12 (8 to noon) at the Marriott Hotel. The conference theme is 'Connecting the Pieces for Mitigation.'
- Abstracts for presentations are due on April 15, 2009. Information about abstract requirements can be found at <http://www.usehazus.com/events/conferences/>

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for May 26 from 11:30 am ET to 12:30 pm ET / 10:30 am to 11:30 am CT. A dial-in number will be circulated in the near future.