

Central HAZUS-MH Users Group Meeting

May 26, 2009

11:30 am to 12:30 pm EST

Attendees

- Jaime Caplan (National HUG Facilitator)
- Jonathan Marsch, (FEMA Region V)
- Kevin Mickey (Indiana, The Polis Center)
- Tom McClintock (University of Wisconsin Madison)
- Moses Wilkins (FEMA Region IV)
- Pam Soule (Indiana EMA)
- Becky McKinley (NW Indiana)
- Mike Sobocinski (Michigan)
- Steve Swayzee (MN Gov Council)
- Lisa Verheist (Institute of Water Resource Sustainability, Illinois Water Survey)
- Melanie (Institute of Water Resource Sustainability, Illinois Water Survey)
- Kingsley Allan (Institute of Water Resource Sustainability, Illinois Water Survey)
- Lee Treager (FEMA Region V)
- Dean Ervin (Ohio EMA)

Software Patches and Update Schedule

- HAZUS-MH MR3 Patch 3 - the release of this patch is currently anticipated in 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 August/September 2009.

HAZUS Activity Reports

FEMA Region V

- Lee Traeger commented that FEMA Region V was having some difficulty with integrating user provided soils maps into the HAZUS Earthquake model. Kevin M offered to provide assistance with this process.

Illinois

- Kingsley A reported that he and his colleagues at the Illinois Water Survey will be obtaining the HAZUS Trained Professional certification.
- The Water Survey is working on finalizing a contract with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency for enhanced HAZUS-MH analysis. This study will include Henderson, Hancock, Mercer, and Pike counties along the Mississippi R. The Water Survey will be partnering with the University of Illinois extension.
- Lisa Verheist reported that it took 495 hours to do an average annualized loss study of a single county on the Mississippi. In addition, some of the reports failed to populate. A possible reason for this is lack of disk space.

Kevin M reported that Patch 3 should address some of the issues that the AAL analysis has seen in previous HAZUS versions.

Indiana

- Indiana is planning to schedule several HAZUS-MH Basic and ArcGIS for Emergency Managers courses in 2009. Dates for these courses will be announced as they are available.

- 73 of the 92 Indiana Counties have either undergone an enhanced HAZUS analysis (integration of local data) or are underway.
- Kevin Mickey reported on several HAZUS-MH related research initiatives being conducted in Indiana.
 - Service Oriented Architecture for the Indiana Flood GRID - this project is a collaboration of the Indiana Silver Jackets (a consortium of multiple state, federal, and local agencies with an interest in hazards), The Polis Center, the Indiana University Grid Computing Lab, and others. The project is utilizing Service Oriented Architecture to provide the means to integrate real-time flood modeling, local building data, and HAZUS loss estimation functions to generate rapid estimates of losses related to flooding. The technology developed thus far integrates multiple operating systems, compilers, communication protocols, development frameworks, databases, and file systems into a user friendly, easy to use interface.
 - Indiana Risk Assessment Model (RAM) - The Polis Center is collaborating with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security and Integrated Solutions Consulting to devise a method to compare, assess, and evaluate natural, technological, and political hazard (hazard analysis) with the underlying vulnerabilities (risk assessment) common within Indiana. The goal of the project is to apply a consistent and scalable methodology that can be applied uniformly throughout the state at all levels of government. This methodology will differ from most current approaches in that it will consider a multitude of both physical factors (damage to the built environment, etc) and social factors (socioeconomic conditions, degree of public trust, collective action and solidarity, etc.). Conceptual model development is funded and underway with anticipated completion in the summer of 2009. Funding is anticipated for a second and third phase of the project which will include testing and integration into state processes.

Michigan

- No report.

Minnesota

- Steve Swayzee reported that the state is planning to do a statewide HAZUS mitigation planning project in collaboration with the University of Duluth.
- Minnesota has a website that demonstrates products generated as a result of work done with the Red River flooding. The site link is
http://www.gis.state.mn.us/committee/emprep/response_events/red_river_flood_2009/index.html

Ohio

- Dean Ervin reported that that he and Brad Keiser will be attending the Basic HAZUS course at EMI in July.

Wisconsin

- Tom McClintock reported that Dane County is updating their mitigation plan and that they are using some of the analysis output generated from the statewide HAZUS flood study.
- Robby Stoikes reported (by email) that Wisconsin will be posting each individual county analysis (from the state HAZUS project) onto their website.

Field Training at FEMA Joint Field Offices

- Several states (Indiana, Alabama, Texas, Washington, and possibly others) have opened FEMA Joint Field Offices (JFO) to coordinate ongoing disaster responses. These facilities have been used in some instances as host sites for HAZUS training. For example, Kevin has taught five EMI certificate bearing courses at the Indianapolis JFO in 2008-09. This can work very effectively since JFOs typically have computer labs and funding to support instructional staff.
- Lee Treager and Kevin Mickey discussed the process for coordinating with FEMA Joint Field Offices (JFO) to arrange for HAZUS-MH training. It was suggested that the state HAZUS POC should contact FEMA Region V (either Lee Treager

or Jonathan Marsch) and that they will assist in identifying a contact person at the JFO.

Best Practices

- This item was deferred to the next meeting.

HAZUS Trained Professional and HAZUS Trained Practitioner Certificate Programs

- HAZUS users need to contact Phillip Moore, HAZUS course manager at the Emergency Management Institute, if they are interested in obtaining recognition as a HAZUS Trained Professional or HAZUS Trained Practitioner. Phil can be reached at phillip.moore@dhs.gov.
- Information about these programs is available at http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/hazus/hz_news.shtm#6.

National HAZUS Conference Update

- The 2009 National HAZUS Conference will be held in Raleigh, North Carolina from August 10 to August 12. The conference theme is 'Connecting the Pieces for Mitigation.'
- Jamie Caplan reported that there is still an opportunity to submit abstracts. Information about abstract requirements can be found at <http://www.usehazus.com/events/conferences/>

2009 Meeting Schedule

July 6 - 11:30 to 12:30 ET

August 19 - 11:30 to 12:30 ET

September 10 - 10 to 11 am ET

October 13 - 11:30 to 12:30 ET

November 16 - 11 to noon ET

December 14 - 11:30 to 12:30 ET