

# Central HAZUS-MH Users Group Meeting

## October 6, 2008

### Attendees

- Jaime Caplan (National HUG Facilitator)
- Frank Change (FEMA Region V)
- Jonathan Marsch, (FEMA Region V)
- Kevin Mickey (Indiana, The Polis Center)
- Phil Pittman (IL Dept of Public Health)
- Robby Stoikes (WI EMA)

### State Reports

#### Minnesota

No report

#### Wisconsin

Robby S reported that the Wisconsin Emergency Management Agency has completed their HAZUS-MH flood model project for the state. The final HAZUS-MH rollup of the individual county risk assessments has been incorporated into the state plan. WEM has all HPRs in hand and therefore can respond to user inquiries. Tom McClintlock, a key participant in the project who worked with WEM and The Polis Center, will be presenting the results of the project at the ESRI Wisconsin users group.

They would like to do a couple of success stories on the county level.

#### Ohio

No report.

Chad Berginnis is no longer the State Hazard Mitigation Officer in Ohio. He has assumed a new position. Jonathan M will be looking for a new point of contact.

## **Indiana**

Kevin M reported that since the last CHUG meeting, Indiana has received approval of a pre-disaster mitigation grant to complete approximately 30 additional counties. When completed, this project will result in the completion of approximately 90% of Indiana counties at a HAZUS level II analysis level.

## **Illinois**

Phil Pittman, Illinois Dept of Public Health joined the group today. He just recently heard about HAZUS-MN and joined the group to become familiar with what the technology can do in the public health field.

## **Michigan**

No report

## **FEMA Region V**

Frank C indicated that the FEMA Region V GIS Center is still collecting infrastructure information. He is coming to Indianapolis latter this week for the Indiana earthquake workshop and hopes to make a number of connections with data providers at that time.

Jonathan Marsh announced that Ken Hinterlong is the new FEMA Region V Risk Analysis Branch Chief. HAZUS activity will be among the things that are within his area of responsibility.

## **Software Patches and Update Schedule**

- HAZUS-MH MR3 Patch 3 - scheduled for release in late 2008.
- HAZUS-MH MR4 - anticipated to be released in February/March 2009.

## **Region V Training Opportunities**

- A new HAZUS Virtual Data Management course is anticipated for release on the ESRI Virtual Campus by the end of 2008.

- The Indiana Department of Homeland Security is planning to sponsor multiple HAZUS courses in Indiana in the late Fall of 2008 and Winter of 2009. The courses include *ArcGIS for Emergency Managers*, *Basic HAZUS-MH*, *HAZUS-MH for Flood*, *Catastrophic Earthquake Planning Using HAZUS-MH*, and *Comprehensive Data Management for HAZUS-MH*. The courses are free and open to everyone, but no travel expenses will be reimbursed. All courses, with the exception of the *Catastrophic Earthquake Planning Using HAZUS-MH* course will be eligible for EMI credit. Dates and locations for each course will be announced in the near future. Anyone interested in the courses should contact Kevin M ([kmickey@iupui.edu](mailto:kmickey@iupui.edu)) as soon as possible so that they can be added to the list.

### **National Users Group**

- Jamie C reported that there was a National Users Group leaders call in September. Highlights included the following:
  - User groups are being encouraged to participate nationwide in flood awareness week.
  - FEMA has defined a goal for establishing a HAZUS users group within each state.
  - There will be outreach to historically black colleges and universities as a focused initiative.
- Jamie C reported that on September 25<sup>th</sup> there was a national HAZUS call. The major theme of the call was the new FEMA RiskMap initiative. Over 40 participants participated in the discussion. Paul Wong, FEMA headquarters, was the guest speaker. Information about RiskMap is available at [fema.gov/plan/ffmm.shtm](http://fema.gov/plan/ffmm.shtm).

Jamie reminded the participants that the national calls are open to anyone. Information about times and dates of the national user group calls, along with minutes from past calls, is posted on [usehazus.com](http://usehazus.com).

### **CHUG User Group Reorganization and Expansion**

The group had an initial discussion about the possibility of forming a separate HAZUS-MH user group within each state of FEMA Region V. This is in sync with objectives discussed at the last National HAZUS Users group leader call that occurred in September.

It was suggested that HAZUS users group in each of the Region V states should be facilitated by higher education institution points of contact. The rationale for this suggestion is that higher education institutions are well positioned to manage this type of initiative. For example, they are not as likely to be impacted by events such as disasters that would require shifting attention away from user group activities.

The following individuals were suggested as points of contact options by steering committee.

<b>State</b>	<b>Suggested POC</b>
Indiana	Kevin Mickey, Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis
Illinois	Nicolas Pinter, Southern Illinois University
Wisconsin	Tom McLintock, University of Wisconsin
Minnesota	TBD
Michigan	TBD
Ohio	TBD

Kevin M will contact Nicolas Pinter and Robbie Stoikes volunteered to contact Tom McLintock to invite them to join us at the next CHUG steering committee meeting as chairs of the user groups within their respective states assuming they are willing to accept that responsibility.

The following is a draft that Kevin M developed of the possible roles of state user group chairs and a redefined role for the Central HAZUS Users Group Steering Committee. These items were not discussed in the user group meeting, but can be reviewed and modified as necessary at the next CHUG steering committee meeting.

#### Proposed State User Group Roles

- 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 (perhaps we should rename this 'FEMA Region V HAZUS Users Group Steering Committee??')

#### Proposed Central HAZUS Users Group roles

- Membership would be composed of the state user group chairs, FEMA Region V representatives, and other representatives as appropriate
- Identify major initiatives within the region that impact all of the states in the region
- Serve as the conduit between FEMA Region V and the state user groups

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 24, 2008 at 11:00 am ET / 10:00 am CT. A dial-in number will be circulated in the near future.