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User Group calls:

March 10, 2015

April 14, 2015

May 12, 2015

June 9, 2015

Get more information regarding the User Group calls by signing up for [GovDelivery](#) emails.

FEMA Tests Nuclear Emergency Readiness in Region III

On February 10th, 2015, Dominion Virginia Power and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management conducted a full-scale exercise at the Surry Power Station near southeastern Virginia's Surry County. Their mission was to test out system preparedness and how staff and local agencies would respond to a breach in plant security measures. The exercise has been held biannually for nearly a decade now and involves personnel from Dominion Virginia Power, as well as members of more than two dozen local, state, and Federal agencies, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Region III office.

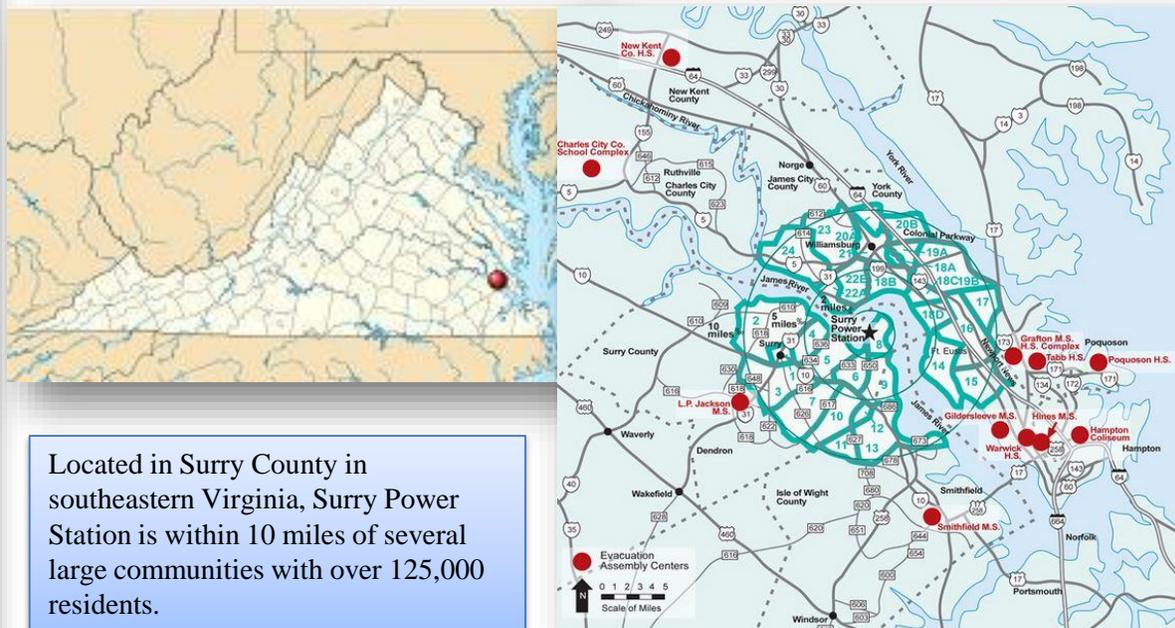
From emergency response centers set up throughout the state, participating personnel role-played their normal functions during the simulation and employed the same communication channels they would in the event of an actual emergency. Citizens living in and around the Emergency Planning Zone could witness emergency responders and other personnel taking part in the exercise throughout their communities.

At a public meeting held on February 12th in the nearby town of Newport News, VA, FEMA presented its preliminary findings to the community. Within 90 days of the exercise, FEMA will provide its analysis and evaluation of the exercise to the NRC. A final report will be presented to the public within 120 days of the exercise.

Tracking Nuclear Threats in Hazus

Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) threats have become all too real with advancements in warfare and an increase in the percentage of global electricity needs that are met through nuclear power. While Hazus is commonly used for determining the physical, economic, and social impacts of earthquakes, hurricanes, and floods, some users may not be aware of the software's compatibility with technological hazard determination products.

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Located in Surry County in southeastern Virginia, Surry Power Station is within 10 miles of several large communities with over 125,000 residents.



Upcoming Courses

E0313: Basic Hazus-MH

April 13 – 16, 2015

E0317: Comprehensive Data Management for Hazus-MH

June 15 – 18, 2015

E0172: Hazus-MH for Flood

July 27 – 30, 2015

Download the course schedule and enroll at the [EMI Courses Page](#)

Contact Us

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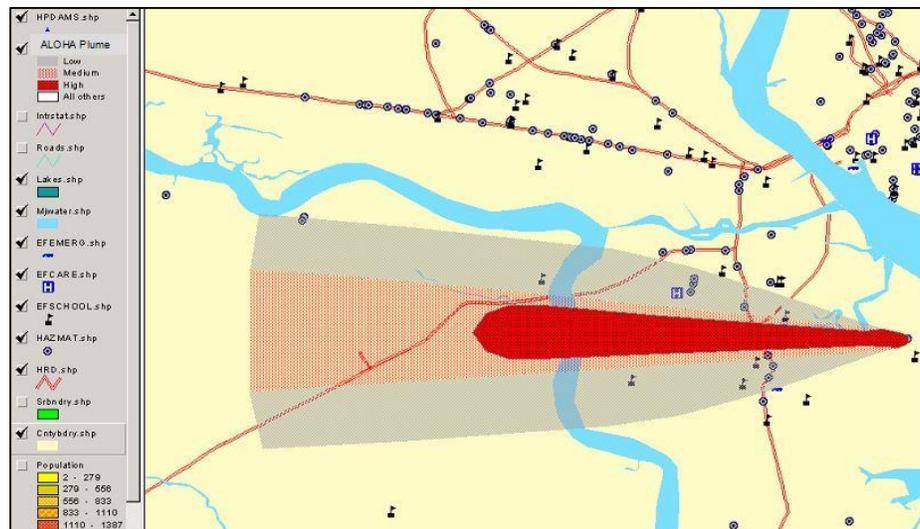
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Virginia Nuclear Emergency Testing Continued

The Area Locations of Hazardous Atmospheres (ALOHA) tool is one program that is helping to prepare communities for chemical and biological disasters. The program allows for estimations of how a toxic cloud of radiation or chemicals could disperse given particular environmental factors and wind direction. ALOHA showcases a threat zone, which is the area where a particular radiological hazard has exceeded the Level of Concern (LOC). Mapping experts can then help responders determine and calculate how quickly chemicals and radiation are escaping a source, how a release rate might change over time given local conditions, and what parts of the community are most vulnerable to the toxicity.

The benefit of the ALOHA plume, as it's called, is that it can be overlaid and combined with numerous inventories, including that of Hazus-MH. Exposure profiles, demographic data, building and facility data can all be presented concurrently on a map of an ALOHA plume in order to help determine how many people or structures will be affected downwind from a nuclear or chemical incident.

The ALOHA program was developed jointly by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). To learn more about the program and download the software, visit the [ALOHA homepage](#) at the Office of Response and Restoration website.



An ALOHA plume, overlaid on a Hazus-MH inventory of buildings and infrastructure features. While operational as a stand alone program, the ALOHA tool can also seamlessly be paired with other disaster and hazard mapping software.

Hazus Conference 2015 in Atlanta, GA

The 2015 Hazus Conference The 8th Annual Hazus Users Conference is from December 9th - 11th, 2015 in Atlanta, GA. This year's theme is "Hazus and the Emergency Management Life Cycle: From Practice to Policy."

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Georgia Hazus User Group sponsored event brings Hazus users together and provides an information sharing platform for success stories, best



practices, lessons learned, recent research, and workshops and discussions on Hazus topics of interest. Registration is free, but space is limited so reserve your attendance now. For more information, email hazus@arcaspicio.com.



Social Media

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Hazus Help Desk

Hazus users can contact the Help Desk by emailing helpdesk@support.hazus.us

The help desk will provide users with a login ID and password to track the status of their inquiries on their [website](#).

For answers to common questions and other useful resources: [Hazus Help Desk Resource and Solutions Page](#).

Budgeting for Risk Mapping in 2016

The release of the President's 2016 Budget brought with it exciting news for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). In a show of greater support and attention to the cause of disaster mitigation, the NFIP and its risk mapping efforts have been allotted an additional \$184 million in funding, bringing the total budget to more than \$400 million.

While the budget is far from finalized, as it still requires review and Congressional approval, the budget increase of the NFIP showcases greater support and interest in understanding flood risk nationwide. The increased resources are expected to further

support community disaster resilience and allow for improvements in flood mapping effectiveness.

The possible increase of funding to the NFIP is coupled with a greater interest on the part of the current administration in climate resilience and preparedness. A changing climate can have drastic implications on both the severity and frequency of natural disasters. By making investments early on towards understanding climate change, the administration hopes to increase the Nation's overall disaster resilience. The breakdown of the proposed 2016 Presidential Budget is on the [White House Office of Management and Budget webpage](#).

Hazus Modernization: Functional Enhancements

Building on the success of the January Hazus-MH 2.2 release, the FEMA Hazus team is moving forward with the next step in Hazus Modernization. This next step includes the implementation of three main functional enhancements to the Hazus-MH Flood module (Inventory and Service Pack release):

- Applying the dasymetric GBS exposure distribution approach
- Synchronization of depth damage functions with the FEMA Benefit-Cost Analysis tool
- Implement study region aggregation at custom jurisdiction or neighborhood levels

Dasymetric methodology better accounts for undeveloped portions of census blocks. To do this, the loss estimation calculation will be removed, benefiting from the 2010 inventory update and the 2014 Land Use Land Cover (LULC) release. The changes will also incorporate new expert panel Coastal A and V Zone Depth Damage Functions (DDFs), aligning Hazus with the FEMA Benefit-Cost Analysis Re-engineering (BCAR) effort.

There will also be an update based on Community Information Data (CID),



allowing users to aggregate study regions at the jurisdiction level. CIDs are areas linked to the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Information System (CIS), which tracks community map adoption and participation. They are based off of 2010 Census jurisdiction boundaries and have been enabled to incorporate tribes as well. While previous Hazus study region aggregation has allowed for the implementation of state, county, census tract, census block, and watershed levels, these new changes will allow for custom jurisdiction and neighborhood level aggregation and analysis.

Modernization Overview:

1. Hazus 2.2 release 
2. [Flood module enhancements](#)
3. Re-architecture and source code updates
4. Proof of concepts