

HAZUS User of the Year!

2008 4th Quarter



Congratulations to Melissa Berry, Risk Assessment Coordinator for the South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD), she is the 2008 4th Quarter HAZUS User of the Year. Ms. Berry has spearheaded the national pilot project for the Comprehensive Data Management System (CDMS) Web Portal. South Carolina is the first state in the nation to have the web-based CDMS, and it has already gained support of emergency managers and GIS analysts around the state.

SCEMD is updating the entire HAZUS-MH database, county by county, to foster Level 2 HAZUS-MH analysis at both the state and local levels. This year South Carolina will update the five essential facilities (police, fire, schools, emergency operations centers and medical facilities) for all 46 counties within the state. To meet this mission, Ms. Berry has completed several outreach initiatives to gain involvement in the project. She has given several presentations regarding HAZUS-MH and integrating its capabilities into all aspects of emergency management; as well as the benefits of using the CDMS Web Portal to increase the accuracy of hazard assessments.

Ms. Berry founded the South Carolina HAZUS User Group (SCHUG). The SCHUG website launched in October and has already gained interest. With a background in GIS, natural hazards, vulnerability science, and local planning, Ms. Berry has participated in several professional development training courses to improve her ability to utilize HAZUS-MH in her everyday duties. Her expertise allowed her to provide risk assessments during the statewide response to Hurricane Hanna this past September. Ms. Berry continues to support enhancements in risk-based emergency management through her work with stakeholders in South Carolina and other states.

Melissa Berry's vision for the SCHUG and the CDMS Web Portal make her a true champion and supporter of HAZUS-MH. Accordingly, FEMA recognizes Melissa Berry as the 2008 4th Quarter HAZUS User of the Year.

Congratulations!



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