Telemeeting notes

March 20, 2013, 10:30 – 11:30
1-877-413-4790 conference ID 3381344#

@RiskAUG

Attendees:

Dan Campbell, BC; Steve Dickie, PEI: Joe Drechsler,BC; Matthew Graham, BC; Neala Griffin, NL; David Hamilton, BC; Glen Magel, BC; Sarah North, BC; Neil Peters, BC; Jean-Rene Rivard, PQ; Carol Wagner, BC; Maggie Wojtarowicz, BC

Introduction

The forum is the 17th of monthly opportunities to share knowledge about incorporating Hazus Risk Assessment into disaster reduction decisions in Canada. The NRCan Quantitative Risk Assessment Project of the Public Safety Geoscience Program supports the forum until January 2014 (or so, maybe longer).

Resources can be found at: http://www.usehazus.com/canadianhug

Telemeeting program :

1 Introductions,
2 news and views
3 Hazus Starter Kit – Demographic assets inputs for Hazus (will be recorded)
4 Discussion

News

Spots are often available in FEMA training programs at EMI in Emmitsburg Maryland and other venues across the USA. Check the course schedules at http://training.fema.gov/emicourses/

The courses are paid by FEMA, your travel expenses are up to you.

April 29-May 2, 2013, Basic Hazus, Emmitsburg

May 13-16, 2013, Flood module, Emmitsburg

June 22-25, 2013, Basic Hazus, Emmitsburg

June 24-27, 2013, Hazus for Risk Assessment, Emmitsburg

Aug 12-15, 2013, CDMS, data manager for Hazus, Emmitsburg

FEMA is now offering online downloads of its Hazus 2.1 software for residents of the USA, in addition to sending it out by disc. Unfortunately that is for the USA only. If you are in Canada and want to use the USA version of Hazus you must still order it as a disc.

FEMA and the Polis Institute will host a Hazus Conference in Indianapolis Indiana in late August 2013. The final venue and dates are yet to be determined.

Information and resources of the USA Hazus Users Group are available through Linked In group.

Hazus Starter Kit - Infrastructure Asset Inputs for Hazus

by Carol Wagner, Jean-Rene Rivard, Bert Struik, Nicky Hastings, Murray Journeay, Jorge Prieto, Maggie Wojtarowicz, Malaika Ulmi: Geological Survey of Canada, BC

Slide deck available at http://www.usehazus.com/canadianhug > Hug Resources

Presentation and discussion was recorded as CanHUG2013-03-20.ogg

Discussion

Overview of using demographic data in Hazus.

Demographic data permits calculation of casualties (injuries and deaths), shelter requirements and displaced households, though not all of these for each of the hazard types.

To measure those losses requires data for demographics and occupancy.

Displacements can be accomodated by public shelters, personal initiatives or help from friends. Calculated from algorithms developed from imperical data.

Losses are estimates only!!

Losses calcuated by census area.

Many situations cause casualties. Hazus calculates them from building and bridge collapse only in the earthquake module.

Hazus flood and hurricane modules do not estimate casualties. The GIS visualization can give a sense of where populations are affected by the event.

Demographics data divided into three parts: households, population and group quarters.

“Population” can have many types of data about the people and where they are during the day.

Do we have the same data in the Canadian demographic dataset.

Location of the data tables are shown in slide 11 of the slide deck

Form of the tables shown in slide 12.

Slides 13 and 14 shows how the Canadian census information is organized by census units and converted to the Hazus census units.

The Hazus data tables retain the USA terms for the census units. Hazus Canada software descriptions of the census units use the Canadian terms.

Each Hazus census unit has a unique identifier number consisting of various components. See slide 16 for an example.

Where data was not available for Canada a zero was entered or interpretations were made based on USA data or elements of Canadian data.

In some cases, where practical, USA data from nearby States was used to complete a Province data field where Stats Canada did not exist.

Occupancy and General Building Stock data, through from similar source tables, needed to be entered separately into the Occupancy and General Building Stock data tables.

Q: Can the user update the data if the census boundaries have changed?

A: Yes, though it requires a lot of work to change the areas and all the numbers that describe the units.

Q: Are there aggregated data sets for counties?

A: No. Only smaller units.

C: It would be good to have a discussion around the flood module once it is released.

A: yes.

A webinar about the flood module is available on Vimeo. Search for Hazus.

C: would be good to have discussion about vulnerability as well.

[essentially a discussion of the damage functions for structures and characteristics of the various people]

C: How about the damage states for various levels of flooding and at what point a home because a write-off.

Q: What is the topic for the next meeting?

A: do not know.

Q: topic interest from the group for next meeting? Someting more specific?

A:

C: A Canadian technical guide will soon be available and components of that could be presented.

Q: When will the guide be available to the public?

A: Probably the fall at the earliest. First draft done by March 31.

Q: Will Hazus 2.1 be compatible with Arc 10.1 and 10.2?

Q: Will the flood module also include coastal and riverine flooding?

A: Should include both?

C: The Canadian flood module will require your flood model; it will not create a flood model as in the USA version. In other words it will not include the FIT

C: You would therefore also need your coastal flood model.

Q: Will Hazus let you know if you do not have data in some fields?

A: You need to know the gaps yourself. Hazus won't tell you about your data gaps.

You can contact the following at the Geological Survey of Canada for help.
Nicky Hastings for access to Hazus Canada and for technical assistance: nicky.hastings@nrcan.gc.ca
Carol Wagner, GSC Vancouver, for technical assistance with Hazus: carol.wagner@nrcan.gc.ca
Jean Rene Rivard, GSC Quebec, for technical assistance with Hazus: jean.rivard@nrcan.gc.ca
Bert Struik for general enquiries and the Canadian Hazus Users Group: bert.struik@nrcan.gc.ca