

## Telemeeting Notes

March 21, 2012, 10:30 – 11:30

1-877-413-4790 conference ID 3381344#



@RiskAUG

## Introduction

The forum is the 10th 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 March 2013.

### ***Suggested telemeeting program :***

- 1 Introductions
- 2 Your news
- 3 Topic: Taking the Hazus beginner's course: then what? Training and life through a user group.
- 4 Discussion

## Your News and Opportunities

### ***What's Your Hazus News?***

disaster scenarios for fun and reward

### ***Hazus 2.1 for Canada is available.***

Contact Nicky Hastings for a copy. [nicky.hastings@nrcan.gc.ca](mailto:nicky.hastings@nrcan.gc.ca)

### ***Resources***

Jamie Caplan makes podcasts of presentations at various Hazus User Group meetings and posts them to <http://www.usehazus.com/hugs/podcast/> and iTunes (search Hazus). Check them out. Follow @usehazus

### ***Training Opportunities***

NRCan is planning a four day Hazus Overview Course for Ottawa – Quebec City area in May. Contact Miro Nastev for information.

**EMI (Emergency Management Institute) Emmitsburg, Maryland, 75 miles north of Washington, DC.**

Preference to people from USA. Canadian could get a spot if under-subscribed.

April 23 - 26: Hazus for Flood plain managers

**CRHNet 2012 call for abstracts. (Annual Symposium, October 24- 26, 2012, Sutton Place Hotel, Vancouver, BC)**

Call for abstracts: Call for abstracts open third week of February

[www.crhnet.ca](http://www.crhnet.ca) Annual Symposium > Call for Abstracts

Hazus special session

Resilience Planning special session

Hazus users group meeting

**CWRA/CGU 2012 National conference to be held in Banff (AB) June 5-8**

(<http://www.elements2012.ca/program.htm>)

The Geological Survey of Canada is hosting a special session (under the CGU Solid Earth Sessions) on natural risk assessment with Hazus methodology

(<http://www.elements2012.ca/pro/SessionDocs/CGU/CGU-SEarth.pdf>):

Dans le cadre de la Conférence nationale ACRH/UGC 2012 qui aura lieu à Banff (AB) du 5 au 8 Juin (<http://www.elements2012.ca/programme.htm>), la Commission géologique du Canada organise une session spéciale (sous les Sessions de la physique des systèmes de l'UGC) sur l'évaluation des risques naturelles avec la méthodologie Hazus (<http://www.elements2012.ca/pro/SessionDocs/CGU/CGU-SEarth.pdf>):

**Miroslav Nastev** 418-654-2682, [mnastev@nrcan-nrcan.gc.ca](mailto:mnastev@nrcan-nrcan.gc.ca)

**Nicky Hastings** (604) 666-3955, [nhasting@nrcan.gc.ca](mailto:nhasting@nrcan.gc.ca)

**Topic: Taking the Hazus beginner's course: then what? Training and life through a user group.**

- Feb 27 to March 1, a diverse group of 20, took a Hazus overview course in Vancouver.
- We learned the essentials of the earthquake, flood and hurricane modules and how to populate the Hazus study region with data.

- Most important: we learned to be prudent to ensure good data input and ensure professional interpretation of the outputs. One method for prudence was relying on hazard and risk experts for evaluation of what goes into Hazus and about what comes out.
- Several of us today exchanged experiences of the Hazus training.
  - The course material was clear, engaging and practical.
  - Opened doors to possibilities.
  - Built confidence to apply it and broke the first steps barriers.
  - Great way to start; hope to apply it soon and look forward to our organization having the organizational infrastructure to support a hazus project.
- That is where the User Group comes in: either formal or informal, adhoc or staffed.
- Two key parts to that system:
  - Knowing people (its who you know)
    - Keeping in touch: networking, practising as a community
    - Expertise
    - Projects [KEY POINT - COMMON CHALLENGE, LANGUAGE AND TARGETS]
  - Access to knowledge resources
    - Start at [www.useHazus.com](http://www.useHazus.com) and <http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/hazus/index.shtm>
      - Those sites provide background information, tips, contacts, and announcements and links to training opportunities.
- Keeping in touch is partly through this user group. It is one way to help you.
- Visit other HUGs nearby. Can do through usehazus.com. They are friendly, they want you too. Washington State HUG, Idaho HUG, Central HUG, Northeastern HUG.
  - Several Canadian agencies working with the Northeastern Emergency Managers that encompass Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York and Massachusetts, and which have an affiliation with the Northeast Hazus Users Group.
- Resources: Wiki section of [www.useHazus.com](http://www.useHazus.com) points to resources
  - <http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/hazus>
  - <http://nibs.org/hazusweb>
  - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HAZUS>
  - Jamie Caplan
  - Margaret Walton, Atkins STARR team
- Get to know who we are
  - as an experiment we were assigned a buddy for the upcoming month and to send that buddy one email with a minimum of 3 sentences of introduction, describing 1. your expertise 2. your interest in Hazus and 3. a tip that may be of use. (I'll connect you). It is a way of re-enforcing what you heard today about making it personal.

## The Quebec City to Ottawa corridor Hazus earthquake study

Jean René Rivard, Geological Survey of Canada at Quebec City, outlined a Hazus project he is involved with and a challenge they face in start up.

- The project is part of the Geological Survey of Canada's Quantitative Risk Assessment Project, which has an agreement with FEMA to create, test and promote Hazus for Canada.
- Eastern Canada pilot project: Quantitative model earthquake damage loss estimates for the region along the transportation corridor from Quebec City to Ottawa. Confined to the St. Lawrence River lowlands.
  - Includes Quebec City, Montreal and Ottawa with a combined population of over 5.5 million.
  - Works with partners who have expertise in hazards and hazard risk in this area. Includes researchers at GSC and Universities of Montreal and Ottawa.
- The project concentrates on the seismic risk to the built environment and in particular the critical lifeline infrastructure.
- The project area shares 600 km of border with the USA and covers 1957 census subdivisions; 1700 of those in the province of Quebec.
- Project will examine a range of probabilistic seismic scenarios, using two for each major urban centre.
  - 6.2 (short period) and 7.2 (long period) magnitude earthquakes
  - Probabilistic scenarios are those used in the national building code.
  - Best results when applied with a NHERP soil map and as such one is being created for the area with a new compilation of existing geological studies. Will have soil and liquefaction factors.
- The large size of the project area provides several challenges.
  - Large inventory data requirements
    - data across many jurisdictions
    - National data set available of houses and demographics from Census Canada and in the Hazus Canada 2.1 data set.
  - Areal size stresses the computer capabilities.

*Bert Struik, March 21, 2012*