

# **GEORGIA HAZUS USER GROUP**

## **Meeting Minutes**

10/25/2011

### **I. Call to order**

Moses Wilkins: called to order the conference call meeting of the GAHUG at 10:00 am on 10/25/2011.

### **II. From the PPT Slides**

#### **HAZUS is FEMA's loss estimation software:**

- Relational Database Management System, and ESRI ArcGIS User Interface
- Designed to help identify hazards and quantify risk and vulnerability for mitigation planning
- Currently provides earthquake, flood, and hurricane wind loss estimation capability
- Possibilities for other hazards based on sound methodology

#### **Functionality:**

Best used as a regional loss model Analyze risk at the tract, county, region, and state level

#### **Loss Estimation**

- Physical Damages -buildings and their contents, bridges, pipelines, critical facilities (Schools, hospitals, police stations, fire stations, EOCs)
- Economic Losses- including lost jobs, business interruptions, repair and reconstruction costs
- Social Impacts - including estimates of shelter requirements, displaced households, and population exposed to scenario floods, earthquakes and hurricanes.

#### **Hazus Vision:**

- To reduce loss of life and property and protect institutions from natural hazards.
- Provide a tool for comprehensive, risk-based loss analysis to support the nation's programs in mitigation, emergency management and response and recovery.

#### **Benefits of a HUG:**

- Facilitate communication between different groups
- Encourage widespread acceptance and use of Hazus as a risk management tool
- Hazus User Group efforts support better informed risk management decision-making at the local and regional levels.

### **III. General HAZUS**

Jamie Caplain- Support Hazus user group nationwide and host monthly National Hazus user group conference call 1-570-720-0113 pin 186250# you may also get more information about the national call and activities on usehazus.com. Jamie – will develop the GAHUG webpage. The Georgia Hazus User Group web page will also have its own forum page at [usehazus.com](http://usehazus.com). Anyone can post if registered. We can use this forum as means of communication with each other. Frequently visit the forums to learn and share your knowledge with the HAZUS community. I (Moses) will try to use our webpage for most official HUG communications, please watch this space for updates about the HUG.

- If you have success stories please share them with Jamie so she can write a best practice article.
- If you have not already, signed up for [FEMA GOV Delivery](#), please do so. Daily email digests sent to your inbox will keep you up-to-date on any developments with HAZUS-MH as well as general FEMA news.

Jamie D. Mitchem Ph.D. - Advised the group to stay focused and begin with small achievable goals to advance to bigger and better achievements as we progress. Have annual face to face meetings and recruit new members. Share our experiences and problems with each other.

Mellissa Berry SCHUG- Discussed initial lessons learned from starting the South Carolina HUG.

- Have monthly HUG calls
- Have guest speaker to keep members interests
- Periodically send emails to members to remind them of the website, announcements and education opportunities.

Eric Coughlin NCHUG- Started the North Carolina HUG and it's been self-sustaining for the last 3 years.

- Goal of the HUG is to foster communication with GIS, academy, non academy, local, state, federal agencies.
- Use the forums on usehazus.com
- Have a guest speaker, which is an important element
- Encourage everyone to join the national conference call

#### **IV. Open Discussion**

Hazus 2.1 is soon to be released and will be 64-bit, a first for Hazus.

#### **Hazus 2.0**

A. Hazus 2.0 – the current version –

I. You can order 2.0 now online at the FEMA Map Service Center (<http://www.msc.fema.gov/>)

II. Direct link to the Hazus software is:

<http://www.msc.fema.gov/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/CategoryDisplay?catalogId=10001&storeId=10001&categoryId=12013&langId=-1&userType=G&type=14>

3. First create an account to order the software.

If you have a Technical issue you can also contact Hazus help desk.

A HAZUS-MH Technical Support “Help Desk” application. Also you have the [Help Line and Help emails](#) to answer your technical issues.

The goal of the new “Help Desk” will be to streamline and enhance users’ technical support needs.

#### **Champions of the GAHUG**

Moses Wilkins and Rama Sivakumar (siva)

#### **Adjourn**

