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Recurring Calls

National Hazus User Group (HUG) Conference Call

Second Tuesday of every month at 3:00pm ET unless otherwise noted.

Sign up for calendar invites by emailing Hazus-outreach@riskmapcds.com

Contact Us

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Featured Stories

Florida's Essential Facilities Inventory Incorporated into Hazus 4.2 Release

By Jason Ray, GIS Administrator, Florida Division of Emergency Management

The Florida Division of Emergency Management's (FDEM) GIS Unit maintains a statewide essential facility inventory that includes all reviewed and submitted facilities by each of the 67 Counties in the State. FDEM GIS incorporates this statewide dataset into the creation of specific spatial views for each of the essential facility types used in Hazus. Upon each new release of Hazus, the FDEM GIS Unit, using the Comprehensive Data Management System (CDMS), replaces the default Florida Hazus essential facilities inventory using these spatial views. This process ensures that complete and accurate essential facility data is available. FDEM, in collaboration with the Florida Hazus User Group (FLHUG) provides an annual Excel spreadsheet and personal geodatabase for each essential facility type that is packaged and made available through [FDEM's Open Data Portal](#) for distribution to all Hazus users. (Figure 1)



Figure 1: The Florida DEM Open Data Portal at geodata.floridadisaster.org

An endeavor to update Florida's Hazus default essential facilities inventory in new releases of Hazus began many years ago, but certainly became more focused last fall when Florida declared a State of Emergency for Hurricane Irma. The Florida State Emergency Response Team's (FL SERT) GIS Unit coordinated with FEMA Region IV and the FEMA Hazus Program supported by the Pacific Disaster Center to provide our essential facilities inventory data so that the Hazus team could assist in running Hazus Wind model for Hurricane Irma advisories. The coordination with the Hazus team on this effort was greatly

(continued on page 2)

Florida Essential Facilities Inventory, Continued

beneficial allowing the FL SERT GIS Unit to focus on response to all other geospatial needs and requests resulting from the large-scale impacts incurred by Hurricane Irma.

In providing this dataset, FEMA was able to generate reports and map products by advisory that encapsulated the data provided to the State by the locals resulting in more accurate damage estimates, daily use loss totals, and an accurate output of essential facilities data for map products. (Figure 2). This was a great achievement for Florida, especially for all of the County Emergency Managers and GIS professionals whom diligently provide FDEM their continuous updates of essential facilities within their respective jurisdictions.

Since Hurricane Irma, the FDEM GIS Unit maintained conversations with the FEMA Hazus Program to further refine Florida's Essential Facilities data, which now includes updates to facility attributes and enhancements to replacement cost values for both medical and school facilities using calculations that include RS Means values with total bed counts and school enrollment figures, respectively. Once these improvements were completed, the State Inventory for Florida was made available with the latest Hazus 4.2 release on the [FEMA Map Service Center Hazus Download](#) site. In total, this was a collaborative effort from the Federal, State, and Local side. The FDEM GIS Unit will continue to work with the FEMA Hazus Program to incorporate their critical facilities inventory data in all future releases of Hazus.

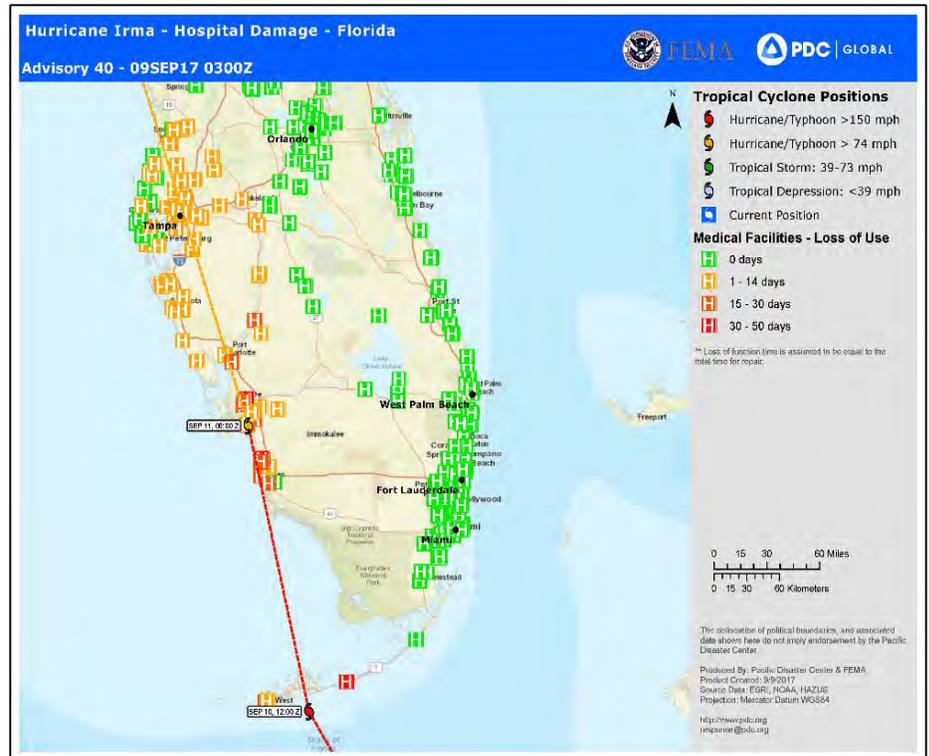


Figure 2: Estimated Hospital Damage – Hurricane Irma, Advisory 40 (9/9/17)

Hazus Courses Now Available in the Sunshine State

By Jason Ray, GIS Administrator, Florida Division of Emergency Management

In addition to their work importing essential facilities data into Hazus, the Florida Department of Emergency Management also began offering Hazus training at its office in Tallahassee, FL. The three courses offered include Basic Hazus, Hazus for Hurricane, and CDMS. Registration for upcoming Hazus courses is available through [SERT TRAC](#), the State of Florida's Training Portal. We anticipate continuing this initiative to offer Hazus courses on a rotating course basis each year at FDEM, with the hope to branch out across the State to various satellite-training locations that will allow more participation and engagement in the use of Hazus software in the State of Florida.

Visit SERT TRAC at <https://trac.floridadisaster.org/trac/loginform.aspx>



Hazus Science and Technology Update

Importing Your State's Essential Facilities (EF) Data

Is your state interested in being proactive on EF data like Florida? Here are some tips for ensuring your data is Hazus-ready for a smooth integration into the state data product:

- More is more – keep track of all of your building's attributes including:
 - Existing Hazus EF-specific ID (e.g., SchoolID = CA003677)
 - Name and Location (address *and* lat/long)
 - Hazard-specific design details: first floor height and foundation type for flood, building type and design level for earthquake, wind building mapping scheme for hurricane, etc. Guidance will be provided on the best defaults to used for your region and facilities if some of these details cannot be developed.
 - Consistent General Building type for each hazard (flood, earthquake, hurricane)
 - Special details for specific facilities can improve results: number of students for schools, number of beds for hospitals, number of fire engines for fire stations, etc.
- Know your facility class – specific Hazus facility class types improve results over defaults
- Consult the Hazus Depth Damage Function Library for the appropriate Depth Damage Function ID for your facility
- Provide metadata
- Check your database for duplicates or missing data before submitting!

Look for a detailed guide on the EF submission process coming soon from the Hazus Team.

Announcements

Service Pack 1 for Hazus 4.2: The Hazus team is in the final stages of developing the first service pack to bring even more enhancements and bug fixes to Hazus. We anticipate Service Pack 1 to be released in late spring/early summer and the highlights will include:

- Integration of the Hazus Export Tool
- Addition of USGS Vs30 Soil Characterization for Earthquake
- New view for hurricane total buildings damaged
- Upgraded import processes for Flood
- New logos and icons to match the Hazus rebranding
- Latent defect fixes

The service pack will be released via the Hazus Auto-Update Patching tool, no downloads required! If you work on a secure system that prevents auto-updating, and executable will be available from the Hazus Download page on FEMA's Map Service Center (MSC) at <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/resources/hazus>.

Share Your Success Story: If you have a Hazus success story or a project you would like feedback on, share it with the Hazus community. Contact the Hazus Team at hazus-outreach@riskmapcds.com if you are interested in submitting an article to the Hazus Quarterly or a presentation for the National Hazus User's Group monthly call!



Hazus User Tips

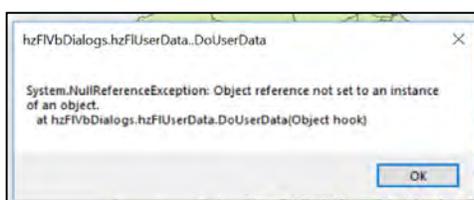
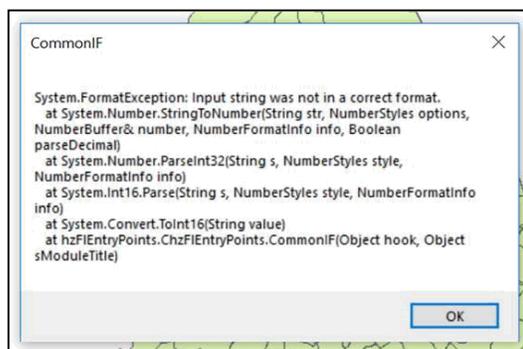
Users may encounter an error when importing custom depth grids (see pictures of error messages on page 4). These errors are common for Hazus users regardless of the version they are using, and are caused by mismatches between the custom depth grid raster file formatting and the standard that Hazus expects. This results in a corrupted study region, and users must create a new study region before attempting to re-import any depth grids. To begin troubleshooting your depth grid raster file, first check for common issues, such as accidental blank or invalid values/characters within the data, or a raster that was created in a different version or projection of ArcGIS. If you are using a depth grid from a third party, the Hazus Help Desk recommends contacting the original source of the file and working with them to get an updated copy. If the depth grid worked successfully in previous version of Hazus, users may also wish to convert the raster to one of the many new supported formats (TIF, IMG, FLT, or FGDB) rather than generate an entirely new depth grid.

FIMA Risk Management Directorate's Natural Hazards Risk Assessment Program

FEMA's Hazus Program is part of the FIMA Risk Management Directorate's Natural Hazards Risk Assessment Program.

For questions about the Natural Hazards Risk Assessment Program contact FEMA-NHRAP@fema.dhs.gov

Hazus User Tips, continued



Above, left: examples of error messages from misformatted custom depth grids.

Please also note, the new default datum/projection for Hazus 4.2 is now WGS84. Hazus 4.2 will recognize files in NAD83 and automatically re-project to WGS84 during the import process.

Program Manager's Corner

Greetings!

It's been a busy spring for Hazus! We released Hazus 4.2, published a brand new Hazus Hurricane manual (4.2), and began development for 4.2 SP1 for release in May. We also started development on a more agile and user-friendly web-based Hazus training program – expect updates about these exciting changes in coming months.

It's my pleasure to announce that Casey Zuzak has joined the Hazus team as a Senior Risk Analyst for FEMA's Natural Hazards Risk Assessment Program. Casey has an extensive background with Hazus, GIS, Risk MAP, risk analysis, and hazard modeling, and has provided geospatial modeling support during many national-level disasters including Hurricanes Sandy, Irene, Isaac, Harvey, Irma and Maria as well as the Moore Oklahoma Tornadoes of 2012 and the Colorado Floods of 2013. Welcome to the team, Casey!

In March 2018, Casey and I taught a Basic Hazus course at the Puerto Rico Emergency Management Agency (PREMA) Emergency Operations Center in San Juan, PR. This course gave us an amazing opportunity to work closely with local emergency management professionals in Puerto Rico, who have worked around the clock for many months to support recovery efforts in the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. We are devoting many of our 2018 resources to the expansion of Hazus modeling capability in PR using lessons learned from the 2017 hurricane season.

To everyone at the Puerto Rico Planning Board, Puerto Rico DOT, PREMA, PR FEMA, and all others supporting recovery efforts in Puerto Rico: THANK YOU! We all stand with you. Puerto Rico se levanta.

Jesse Rozelle
Hazus Program Manager



Casey Zuzak teaches Hazus in PR in March 2018.



PREMA Emergency Operation Center in San Juan, PR



Hazus User Conference

The 10th Hazus Conference will be changing venues. We are looking at rescheduling to Winter 2018/2019, and expect to announce the venue and location shortly - please stay tuned! If you have questions or concerns, please contact hazus-outreach@riskmapcdfs.com We apologize for the inconvenience.

Sign up for GovDelivery

This FEMA email subscription includes alerts and updates on the Hazus program including software releases, National HUG Call reminders, and conference announcements.

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