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November 12
December 10

Leaders calls:

September 3
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Sign up for [GovDelivery](#) emails to learn more about Hazus User Groups.

Congresswoman Susan Brooks to Speak at the Hazus Symposium

Congresswoman Susan Brooks, Chair of the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, and 5th District House Representative from Indiana has been confirmed as a Special Guest Speaker at the 6th Annual Hazus Symposium.

The Symposium, which takes place from August 5th-7th in Indianapolis, Indiana and is hosted by the Central Hazus User Group, is expected to have over 150 attendees.

"The fact that a nationally recognized leader on emergency preparedness is attending a symposium on Hazus is a testament to the importance of mitigation planning," says Dave Coats, Associate Director of the Polis Center in Indianapolis and member of the Central Hazus User Group.

Rep. Brooks recently gave the Keynote Address at the State Emergency Support Function Conference in June. She was quoted stating that, "Response to natural and man-made incidents must be coordinated to be effective. It's often said people can't exchange business cards for the first time when disaster strikes. That's why events like this are so important. They help us share best practices that save lives."



Photo courtesy of <http://susanbrooks.house.gov/>

Before joining the House of Representatives, Rep. Brooks was the Senior Vice President at Ivy Tech Community College. Prior to her work at Ivy Tech Community College she served as the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana. She holds a B.A. of Miami University (Ohio) and her J.D. from Indiana School of Law-Indianapolis.

Rep. Brooks is slated to speak on Wednesday, August 7th, at 11 am EST. For more information or to register, visit the [event website](#).

6th Annual Hazus Symposium, August 5-7, 2013

The 6th Annual Hazus Symposium is less than a month away and registration is going quickly.

If you have not registered, please do so for free at the [registration website](#). Hotel and accommodation information is provided on the event site.

If you are seeking to receive continuing education credits to fulfill Associational membership, digital certification of attendance will be awarded at the end of the Symposium.

Highlights from the Symposium agenda will include:

Monday, August 5th, 10:30 am to 7pm

- Hazus Introductory Workshop
- Opening Address from Central Hazus User Group
- 1913 Flood Exhibit and Reception

Tuesday, August 6th, 8 am to 5 pm

- Hazus Applied to Floods
- International Uses of Hazus
- Model capabilities Panel

Wednesday, August 7th, 8 am to 12:30 pm

- Innovative Uses of Hazus
- Town Hall, Question & Answers
- Susan Brooks, Guest Speaker



Jamie Caplan, Hazus Excellence Award Winner!

Spotlight

FY 2013 Training Courses at EMI

E0190: ArcGIS for Emergency Managers
October 21-24, 2013

E0172: Hazus-MH For Flood
December 2-5, 2013

E0174: Hazus-MH for Earthquake
December 9-12, 2013

To download the course schedule and enroll, visit <http://training.fema.gov/EMICourses/>. For updated training information visit www.fema.gov/hazus-training

Contact Us

Hazus Outreach Team
hazus@arcaspicio.com

Hazus Program Manager
Eric Berman, FEMA
eric.berman@dhs.gov



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"I did it because I knew we needed a web-based community to call home base," says Jamie Caplan, Founder and Owner of USEHAZUS.com. Jamie Caplan Consulting LLC, a comprehensive emergency management services firm, founded in 1997, helped develop the first, and many of the nation's, Hazus User Groups (HUGS). The firm has continued to support the HUGS with USEHAZUS.com. The company maintains a focus on mitigation planning and using Hazus.

Caplan believes in engaging the public and a diverse group of stakeholders in the mitigation planning process. "Using Hazus is often an opportunity to engage these stakeholders in public meetings and helps them buy into the planning process," says Caplan. The most effective use of Hazus according to Caplan, "includes data developers, GIS professionals, data interpreters, and decision makers."

Caplan subsequently began work in FEMA Region IX in the San Francisco Bay Area and developed the first Hazus User Group, deemed the Bay Area HUG. Since then, FEMA has seen the number of HUGS grow to over 35 groups across the nation with additional worldwide groups including in Canada, in part due to Caplan's initial efforts.

Caplan has been certified in an array of coursework pertaining not only to mitigation and preparedness but to response and recovery as well. She has worked on state and local level mitigation plans, with special attention to tribes. Caplan has written FEMA pre-approved hazard mitigation plans for American Samoa, American Indian Tribes and casinos, and local governments, allowing for these entities to receive FEMA funding.



Photo courtesy of www.jamiecaplan.com

She hopes that Hazus will see the further development of models such as a Tsunami Model, and move in the direction of Open Source Software. Her belief in outreach as an effective means to developing mitigation planning remains strong.

"[Effective emergency management] doesn't just happen if you sit in a box and run Hazus," says Caplan, "you need to engage, share, and collaborate."

Jamie Caplan is being recognized as July's Hazus Excellence Award Winner for her continued effort and support for Hazus outreach and the longevity of HUGS. For more information about Jamie Caplan's work please visit her company website at <http://www.jamiecaplan.com/>.

Hazus at the FOSE Conference, May 14-16



Eric Berman, Hazus Program Manager at FEMA, mans the booth at the Annual FOSE Government Technology Conference from May 14-16

The month of May brought Hazus Program Manager, Eric Berman to the Washington Convention Center for the annual Federal Office Systems Exposition (FOSE) Government Technology Conference.

"It was a great opportunity to engage with some advanced users of Hazus and receive some recognition for Hazus software," says Berman.

"Anytime we can hear from users of Hazus or introduce someone to Hazus, we are making an impact," he added.

The Conference, which featured keynote addresses from General Stanley McChrystal and former Washington Redskins quarterback Joe Theismann, is a showcase of leading information technology geared toward Government use.