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- May 13
- June 10
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Sign up for [GovDelivery](#) emails to learn more about Hazus User Groups

Hazus Service Pack 3 (SP03) Released!

Several updates were made to the Flood and Earthquake models that resolve longstanding issues

Visit www.fema.gov/hazus-software for more information.

Alison Miskiman, Hazus Excellence Award Winner

Alison Miskiman, Project Manager and Lead Mitigation Risk Assessor at Tetra Tech, is this May's Hazus Excellence Award Winner, recognizing her longstanding use of Hazus and leadership in the development of a critical facility inventory application to facilitate data capture and compliment Hazus.

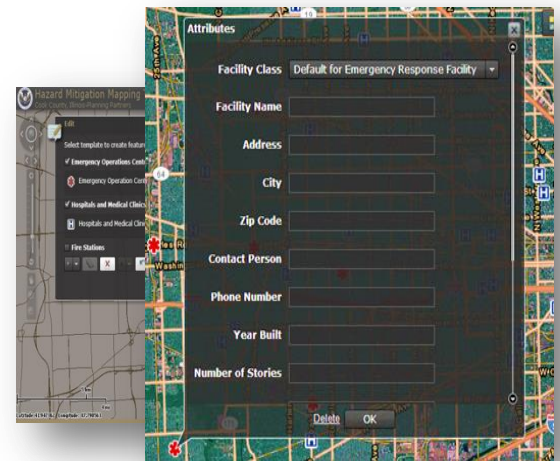
"I have been using Hazus for nearly 7 years," says Miskiman, "and I strive to conduct level 2 analyses for all of our hazard mitigation planning projects."

Miskiman has conducted risk assessments for several hundred municipalities throughout her tenure at Tetra Tech. In order to prepare an insightful plan, a robust risk assessment with a current and accurate inventory is necessary. One of the most difficult challenges, she says, is obtaining the structural attributes needed to achieve a level 2 analysis when this data is not available or in a spatial format. This exercise can be tedious for clients as well as the risk assessment team.

"In the past, I provided hard copy maps and tables to communities to review and mark up if they did not have GIS capabilities. Then, I would create or update layers with the new facilities and attributes in GIS and update the Hazus inventory using CDMS—an often

time-consuming process," says Miskiman.

Miskiman recognized that while many communities do not have GIS analysts, they are becoming more tech-savvy and frequently use web-based mapping applications. This was the impetus to conceptualize the custom web-based tool to facilitate the identification and update of critical facilities that she uses with communities today.



The Hazard Mitigation Mapping Tool, created by Miskiman and her team, allows users to easily update building attributes to be used in Hazus without extensive GIS knowledge

Miskiman put together a team of colleagues, including Cathy Walker and Bill Spiking, to develop her project.

We use ArcGIS Viewer for Flex and structured the outputs to seamlessly integrate into Hazus, she added. One of the most recent successes has been using the tool for the Cook County, Illinois multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan where more than 100 users were trained and over 6,600 facilities were updated. Miskiman hopes to expand the use of the tool as part of Tetra Tech's risk communication and public outreach efforts, and believes that it will further drive the success of their mitigation plans. Alison Miskiman resides in New Jersey and can be reached at alison.miskiman@tetrattech.com.



Alison Miskiman is this month's Hazus Excellence Award Winner



Upcoming Training

E0296: Application of Hazus-MH for Risk Assessment
July 7-10, 2014

E0313: Basic Hazus-MH
August 4-7, 2014

E0317: Comprehensive Data Management for Hazus-MH
August 11-14, 2014

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

2014 TISP Critical Infrastructure Symposium Invites Hazus Program Manager to Speak, April 8

The Infrastructure Security Partnership (TISP) Symposium took place in Colorado Springs, CO from April 7-8 where a panel on Regional and Community Resilience was featured and the Hazus program was invited to speak.

TISP is a non-profit partnership between several private and public entities geared toward advancing best practices and policy for protecting critical infrastructure throughout the US. The TISP attendees

cover a wide range of audiences interested in both natural and man-made disasters. Eric Berman, Hazus Program Manager, delivered an overview of Hazus-MH and the Hazus program.

“We feel that a focus on critical infrastructure facilities represents the very purpose of using a tool like Hazus,” says Berman. “When we use Hazus, and I am able to present it at a symposium like TISP, we notice that its purpose resonates with the audience—that of tying risk assessment to dollars and encouraging mitigation action.”

This year’s Symposium theme was “Strategic Resilience” and it emphasized strengthening partnerships to lead to better resilience. Other panelists discussed post-sandy community resilience and local implementation.

To find out more information about TISP and to view the Hazus presentation visit <http://www.tisp.org/>. All proceedings will be incorporated into an academic journal report and will be available later this year.



Photo courtesy of www.tisp.org

TISP Critical Infrastructure Symposium was held on April 7-8, 2014 in Colorado Springs, CO.

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Hazus Presents at the National Hurricane Conference

FEMA Hazus Program Manager, Eric Berman and Hazus Subject Matter Expert, Dr. Andrea Jackman, attended the National Hurricane Conference on April 17 to give a presentation and demonstration on the hurricane model in Hazus.

“Part of the success of our Hazus program is our ability to not just build a credible tool, but to communicate the benefits of this tool to a wide audience,” says Berman. “We find that everywhere you go there is someone new using Hazus, or someone finding a new use for Hazus in their community.”

Jackman, an expert on the hurricane model, says that “Hurricanes pose a significant threat to our coastal areas, and a number of factors contribute to our understanding of the science, ultimately helping us investigate and prepare for various storms.”

These factors include storm duration, direction, topography, terrain, and the inland distance. When they are integrated into a system that evaluates building types and economic costs, communities have a better understanding of how to identify the most vulnerable areas in their regions, added Jackman.

The National Hurricane Conference lasted from April 14-17 in Orlando, Florida. Each year, engineers, emergency managers, planners, GIS analysts, building and zoning officials, and more, gather to give the latest updates on best practices and technology. They bring the latest meteorological findings and discussion of assisting communities in the mitigating for hurricanes damages that cost the US \$1.8 billion per storm on average per year.

More information on the conference can be found by visiting <http://hurricanemeeting.com/>. For a full schedule of the Hazus program’s attendance at conferences this year, visit <http://www.fema.gov/hazus-mh-conferences>.



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