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Spotlight

Coming Soon! Changes to the **HURREVAC** download portal within the hurricane module! Updates are expected on January, 2014. They will allow real-time download of hurricane forecast and evacuation data from NOAA.

User Group calls:

November 12
December 10
January 14, 2014

Leaders calls:

January 7, 2014
March 4, 2014
May 6, 2014

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

Region III Mitigation Division Delivers a New Approach to Risk Assessment Software Training

Despite a difficult government shutdown, Region III showcased Hazus training in three locations this past October: University of Delaware, Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center, and George Mason University.

Cynthia McCoy, Region III Risk Analyst, and Kevin Mickey and David Coats of The Polis Center led a four day training held simultaneously at the three locations from October 22th-25th, using Adobe® Connect™, a virtual platform. A total of 40 participants took part in the E0313 Basic Hazus-MH course over the three days, and 55 total participants turned out for the fourth day, which included an interactive discussion of the trainings.

“A huge turnout for the Basic-MH course suggested the importance of the Hazus Program,” commented McCoy, who



Trainees follow along in a virtual classroom



Region III E0313 Basic Hazus Training Locations from October 22-25th

organized the trainings, “We are making strides in Region III, and the proliferation of training means a new cadre of resources in the region, which, in turn, will encourage risk mitigation action, and overall exposure to Hazus capabilities.”

The interactive discussion included State Hazard Mitigation Officers (SHMOs), National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Coordinators, State GIS Officers, and other State and Federal partners from the Region. The discussion centered on the intersection between mitigation planning and Hazus, highlighting data sharing challenges and opportunities for implementation.

Oregon Geologic Survey Uses Hazus to Create Landslide Module, Updates State Maps

Bill Burns and Kate Mickelson of the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) for the State of Oregon used Hazus to create a Landslide Module for Astoria County this past year.

“We have been using Hazus for several years to estimate landslides through the Earthquake module,” says Burns. “This was one of the first where we removed the Earthquake model from the equation and focused just on landslides as a result of shaking.”

On a grant from the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HGMP), Burns explains that to narrow the scope of a project to just landslide losses within Hazus, a user may run the Earthquake module first with landslides and subsequently without; the difference provides the landslide damages.

What Burns and Mickelson found was impressive: approximately 50% of the

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Zachary Baccala, Hazus Excellence Award Winner!

Upcoming Training

E0313: Basic Hazus-MH
November 18-21, 2013

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

EO174 Hazus-MH for Earthquake
December 9-12, 2013

EO170 Hazus-MH for Hurricanes
January 13-16, 2014

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



Zachary Baccala, Risk MAP Regional Program Management Lead, Region I is this month's Hazus Excellence Award Winner

"Joe Public' may not necessarily understand everything that's going on with Hazus, but that just means that there's an opportunity to change the message," says Zack Baccala, from his newly secured seat as Risk MAP Regional Program Management Lead (RPML) in Boston.

Baccala is this month's Hazus Excellence Award winner in recognition of his dedication and commitment to the advancement of the Program as both a trainer and advisor.

A Maryland native, Baccala went to Salisbury University, where he was first exposed to Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Hazus.

"I stumbled upon GIS as an accident, in a way," claims Baccala, "I took a class with Dr. Michael Scott, who headed

the Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC) at Salisbury; it was there that I had begun to work with Hazus as the ESRGC was conducting the first statewide analysis."

After joining PBS&J and Atkins Global Inc., Baccala had the opportunity to work on the compilation of the Hazus Average Annualized Loss (AAL) data in 2008 and 2009, subsequently reviving his interest in Hazus.

With renewed experience, he quickly found himself working with Kevin Mickey, Director of Professional Education at the Polis Center, to become a Hazus Trainer. Since then, Baccala has taught several classes including Basic Hazus-MH and Hazus for Floods, among others.

As the Hazus User Group Leader in Maryland, he led several initiatives for trainings, and presented at this past year's Hazus Symposium. His most recent work includes a flood loss study conducted for low impact development for EPA and a statewide Hazus analysis for Washington.

Baccala has been a vociferous proponent of where he feels the direction of Hazus should lead as well, contributing to Hazus Vision discussions, and helping to mold its future direction elsewhere.

"Hazus is an underutilized tool," says Baccala. "It should be on every planner's desk because, realistically, we will still build in flood prone regions, and we need these 'what-if' scenarios that Hazus can produce to provide an accurate estimate of the potential damages."

Baccala now resides in Rockland, Massachusetts with his wife Kelly and his three dogs.

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city of Astoria has been labeled as highly susceptible to landslide damages.

"There are policy implications," says Burns and Mickelson, "Oregon has a statewide goal to mitigate natural hazards and this study provided two components that will help enact some rulemaking in reaching this goal, an assessment of risk and an assessment of the hazard."

To conduct their analysis, they relied upon highly detailed lidar (light ranging and detection) elevation data to support the hazard inputs, while integrating

it with the existing building stock and census level data in Hazus - a "user-defined" approach.

Burns and Mickelson are currently conducting a larger study in Clackamas County. They will be meeting in November to discuss how their study can help encourage mitigation action and build resilience among communities in the County.

If you would like to see their report, please visit the DOGAMI website at:
<http://www.oregongeology.org>.

For more information on uses of Hazus, please contact hazus@arcaspicio.com.