HAZUS User of the Year!
2010 2nd Quarter

Congratulations to Dr. Jonathan Remo, the 2010 2nd Quarter HAZUS User of the Year! Dr. Remo is an Instructor and Senior Analyst at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale (SIUC). He is a member of the Central HAZUS User Group (CHUG), and the HAZUS User Group coordinator for the State of Illinois. He is also a member of the CHUG Best Practices Committee. Dr. Remo has a PhD in Environmental and Resources Policy from SIUC.

Currently, Dr. Remo leads a group of graduate level analysts at SIUC to use HAZUS to create Hazard Mitigation Plans for Illinois. They have worked diligently to improve the risk assessments, analyzed via a HAZUS Level 2 approach, by incorporating local data. This has required a significant amount of work since Illinois does not have standard GIS data, such as essential facilities, for every county. To further enhance the analysis, Dr. Remo and his team have asked counties to provide other user defined facilities of high importance that could affect the risk assessments. Dr. Remo also uses his geology background to challenge some of the science of HAZUS, including the capabilities of various elevational surfaces to determine depth grids. These studies are only beginning to skim the surface at SIUC.

Dr. Remo and the team at SIUC have worked closely with The Polis Center to enhance risk assessment using HAZUS. The Polis Center and SIUC have collaborated and have created 17 FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation Plans, with more to come.

Not only has Dr. Remo worked with HAZUS for Hazard Mitigation Plans, he has also encouraged graduate students to incorporate HAZUS into their theses. Some of the theses include using HAZUS with hydraulic modeling to determine annual loses from levee setbacks. The unique incorporation of HAZUS has increased the capacity and abilities that HAZUS has to offer to the scientific and planning communities.

FEMA recognizes Dr. Jonathan Remo as a HAZUS Use of the Year because of his innovation, expertise and dedication to the HAZUS methodology.

Congratulations!

FEMA