



August 2011 Bi-Monthly SCHUG Conference Call – Minutes

8/30/2011

Start Time: 2:01 pm

End Time: 2:40 pm

Participants:

- Melissa Berry, SCEMD, SCHUG Leader
- Christopher Emrich, USC HVRI
- Jamie Caplan, Jamie Caplan Consulting, LLC
- Margaret Walton, Atkins
- Zach Baccala, Atkins
- Theresa Thorsen, Town of Bluffton
- David Whisenant, DHEC
- Moses Wilkins, FEMA
- Stacy Haney, MUSC
- David Stroud, AMEC
- Melanie Gall, LSU
- Andrew Joiner, LSU
- Cong Fu, LSU
- Nathan Slaughter, Atkins
- Caroline Cunningham, Atkins

I. Introduction

- a. Review of agenda
- b. Focus Topic – Using the Comprehensive Data Management System (CDMS) to update the Hazus inventory at the University Level.

II. Review last call

- a. Discussed National and SC HUG updates
- b. Last call focused on the 5th Annual Hazus Conference, new publications, and upcoming training. The guest speaker, Dr. Christopher Emrich from HVRI, presented a project on using Hazus for sea level rise loss estimation. Emrich discussed how you could use this analysis as a tool for mitigation prioritization and outreach. See www.usehazus.com/schug for official minutes.

III. National HUG Updates

- a. The 5th Annual HAZUS Conference was held earlier this month in Seattle, WA
 - i. The conference was well attended
 - ii. The agenda covered a variety of topics including technical sessions, hazard specific sessions, and innovative uses of hazus
 - iii. Many of the sessions were recorded for podcasts
 - iv. The proceedings are now available on Hazus.net
 1. <http://hazus.net/content/index.php?page=proceedings-2011>

- 2. Also includes the pre-conference training on Hazus 2.0
 - b. Social Media outlets
 - i. Hazus user group information, conference discussions, and networking is now available through social media.
 - ii. If you think the South Carolina HUG needs to be on one or more of these outlets, email Melissa
 - c. Hazus at your conferences
 - i. If you have a conference that you are attending or are hosting and you would like Hazus information to be present, let Melissa or Jamie Caplan know and they can set it up.
- IV. SCHUG Updates
- a. Hurricane Irene grazed our coastline last week/weekend
 - i. SC did not sustain a direct hit, but there was flooding, power outages, and severe beach erosion on the coast.
 - ii. Melissa and SCEMD used HAZUS MR5 to run a variety of scenarios.
 - 1. Ran the Hurrevac generated track
 - 2. Then modified the track to make landfall on different areas of the coastline at all possible intensities (Cat 1 – Cat 3).
 - 3. Allowed State Emergency Management to prepare for a wide range of damage possibilities and prepare a State of Emergency request for the Governor if needed.
 - b. SCEMD is slowly transitioning to HAZUS 2.0. We are currently working through data compatibility issues between our State CDMS portal and Hazus 2.0
 - c. South Carolina plans to teach a HAZUS and Emergency Management course – a one day class on November 7th
 - i. The course will focus on how HAZUS can be used in a hazard event (with a focus on earthquakes).
 - ii. It will show Emergency Managers how to interpret Hazus reports and results and use them in a real life event.
 - iii. Go to the www.scmd.org to register if you are interested
- V. Guest Speaker
- a. Ms. Caroline Cunningham, Hazard Mitigation Planner from Atkins in Raleigh, NC, presented her work on using CDMS to update the hazus inventory for a university, highlighting the USC Beaufort Campus as a case study. The methodology that she used can be implemented at other universities or at the local government level.
 - b. CDMS is a tool used to integrate local data in HAZUS for enhanced inventory and results
 - i. Updating your data allows a community to “get beyond the box” and use better data for improved analysis
 - ii. Hazus data is out of date for many locations. Hazus also does not include much data for universities; in fact it is usually a single point.

- c. Method:
 - i. Determine what is in Hazus, what needs to be updated, and what data you need to collect (existing data vs. data that will need to be collected/created). This can be done by exporting data that is already in hazus through CDMS. This provides you with a CDMS ready template and a list of attributes that need to be collected
 - 1. Utilize the CDMS data dictionary for formatting and data types
 - 2. Refer to technical manuals for hazard specific information
 - ii. Conduct site visits and collect data
 - iii. Update data via CDMS
 - 1. Add new buildings and import into CDMS
 - 2. Match fields and transfer (via Append) into database
 - iv. Run analysis
 - 1. First ensure that all inventory has been updated
 - 2. Easiest way is to map the facilities in HAZUS
- d. Limitations
 - i. Unable to update hurricane specific attributes in CDMS
 - ii. Difficult to assign some of the detailed building types and foundation types with site visits or through pictures
- e. Tips and tricks
 - i. Build a team!
 - ii. Site visits are crucial
 - iii. Understand inputs and outputs:
 - 1. Let CDMS assign the Hazus ID
 - 2. Only manipulate the damage functions if you understand what you are doing
 - 3. Not all inputs are worth modifying or updating, while others are extremely important (for earthquakes, soil is very easy and important to update).
- f. Final thoughts:
 - i. Insurance documents are very helpful for finding building data
 - ii. The data collection process could be done in about a week if you have a team with you to do site visits and collect data.
 - iii. The presentation will be available on the www.usehazus.com website soon.

VI. Wrap-up

- a. Next call date is tentatively scheduled for November 1, 2011 at 10:00am
 - i. Please send me any guest speaker suggestions
 - ii. Georgia is looking to start a HUG – maybe we can invite them to a joint call and learn about projects they are doing
- b. Check out the website for more updates