



FEMA



# Five Classrooms and Four Time Zones Combined for the Inaugural Virtual Basic HAZUS Training Course

Over 100 individuals participated in Basic HAZUS training course held March 23-25, 2010. Not that unusual unless you consider that these participants were located in five classrooms spread across four time zones. This logistical phenomenon is an entry way for more HAZUS training courses to be held in the years to come.



The secret to success for this course was the integration of traditional classroom techniques with virtual distance learning technologies.

Technologies used during the course included Adobe Connect, which handled the broadcasting of live camera images as well as presentation materials, and

Skype, which was used for audio communication. The course material was delivered by the lead instructor, Kevin Mickey, from his site location at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. It was simultaneously broadcast via Adobe Connect to four satellite course locations in Bothell, Washington; Long Beach, Mississippi; Columbia, South Carolina; and Baltimore, Maryland. Following the lectures, students at each location completed hands-on exercises with the support of one or more adjunct instructors who were able to provide one-on-one support as needed. The adjunct instructors included Nick Delmedico (Bothell, WA), Gene Longenecker (Long Beach, MS), Melissa Berry (Columbia, SC), Moses Wilkins (Columbia, SC), and Adam Campbell (Baltimore, MD).

## HAZUS Training

The HAZUS Education Program guides you through the process of harnessing the power of HAZUS to produce a quantified and geospatial view of the potential risks facing your community.

## FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI)

HAZUS resident training classes are offered at EMI in Emmitsburg, MD. Course enrollment for the HAZUS EMI curriculum is at no cost for Federal, State, and local community officials with the exception of meals.

## Regional Training Opportunities

For information about regional training opportunities and events, go to the HAZUS Regional Training page on the [fema.gov/plan/prevent/hazus](http://fema.gov/plan/prevent/hazus) website or contact Eric Berman by e-mail at [eric.berman@dhs.gov](mailto:eric.berman@dhs.gov).

## Virtual Training Opportunities

Web training courses let you master HAZUS on your own timeline. To learn more about these courses and to enroll, visit [www.esri.com/hazusmhtraining](http://www.esri.com/hazusmhtraining).

[www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/hazus](http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/hazus)

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In order to account for the multiple time zones, the primary course instruction occurred from 10:00 am to 5:30 pm on the east coast and from 7:00 am to 2:30 pm on the west coast. While some might consider these unusual class times to be impractical, the course facilitators turned a potential inconvenience into an opportunity. This was accomplished by offering one to two hour presentations, strategic planning sessions, etc.



before or after the core class material had been covered each day. These events were customized to the needs of each location. For example, the participants in Kentucky were offered an

overview of ArcGIS on the first day and an overview of the Comprehensive Data Management System on the second day. On the final day they conducted a lively strategic discussion about how to apply the information learned in the class in the State of Kentucky. In each case, participation in these supplementary sessions was optional, but the majority of the participants in the regular course also attended these sessions because of the value-added benefit.

The course design offered the instructor team the opportunity to share their experiences with HAZUS. Each day, approximately thirty minutes were set aside for one of the adjunct instructors to talk about their use of HAZUS in project work.

- Nick Delmedico spoke about the use of HAZUS to model the impacts of flooding and options for mitigation in the Pacific Northwest;
- Gene Longenecker discussed the use of HAZUS to model and address issues related to coastal flooding; and
- Doug Bausch shared his experiences with using HAZUS and other techniques to analyze earthquake losses in an international setting such as Haiti.

Thanks to the technologies employed for the class, all participants were able to simultaneously share-in and benefit from these experiences.

There were a number of other factors that made this a successful course. One of the most important of these was the availability of one or more skilled instructors at each location who were familiar with the course material, and who were technically proficient with the

tools used in the course – HAZUS and ArcGIS – as well as the local operating system, network setup, and other technical components. This enabled each class to run smoothly since the instructor team was able to ensure classroom setups and logistics through the duration of the course.



Another critical factor was the effective collaboration of the many organizations involved in planning and running this course. The primary organizations participating in this

course included the Federal Emergency Management Institute (FEMA), the FEMA regional offices in regions IV, IX, and X, The Polis Center, the University of Kentucky, and the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management. One final critical element was the availability of adequate facilities at which to host the training in each location. Without the support of the organizations which contributed considerable staff and facility resources, the course itself would not have been possible.

For more information about this course, contact any of the following individuals:

Kevin Mickey, The Polis Center – [kmickey@iupui.edu](mailto:kmickey@iupui.edu)

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