

National HUG Conference Call

www.hazus.org
<http://nibs.org/hazusweb/>
www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/hazus/index.shtml

MINUTES – July 6, 2007

Call Participants

1. Beth Howser, PBS&J
2. Daniel Balberchak, Map Modernization Team
3. Jamie Caplan, Jamie Caplan Consulting
4. Jonathan Salomon, NESEC
5. Liz Wojdak, Southern California Association of Governments
6. Rich Davies, Western Disaster Center
7. Kevin Mickey, Polis Center
8. Hillary Stephens, Greenhorne & O'Mara
9. Rick Burgess, City of Punta Gorda Florida
10. Rick Zyvoloski, Collier County, Florida
11. Tom Gates, Data Technologies
12. Tracy Toutant, Sarasota County Government
13. Joe Rachel, FEMA Region 4
14. Eduardo Escalona, FEMA Region 4
15. Liz Wojak, SCEC
16. Tom LeBlanc, Texas Governor's Division of Emergency Management
17. Dave, Texas
18. Mohamad Sleiman, FEMA Region 4
19. Vince Brown, FEMA HQ
20. Glenn Berry, TN-MPO
21. Sue Evers, Region 7
22. Brian Shumon, FEMA Region 2
23. Jonathan Marsch, FEMA Region 5

Next Calls

- Wednesday, July 25, 2007 2:00pm Eastern Time
- Tuesday, August 14, 2007 2:00 pm Eastern Time

National HAZUS Conference

Eric and Vince were very pleased. It was a great group effort. Tom Durham is collecting presentations for official proceedings and will post them online and may even put a CD together that is mailed to all participants. August 4-8, 2008 is the next ESRI conference and the HAZUS Conference will be held in conjunction with it. The key days for the ESRI Conference are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday which does make it difficult for people to attend both conferences. The HAZUS Conference may become half days sessions to facilitate attending both conferences. Holding the HAZUS Conference in conjunction with the ESRI Conference works well because of the relationship between FEMA and ESRI. ESRI gives FEMA free conference space and registration support for the conference.

Expanding Relationships with the State Geologists

Jamie Caplan reported that at the HAZUS Conference it was mentioned that the State Geologists make excellent partners for the HAZUS User Groups. They can work as key data partners and good links to state and local information. Jamie Caplan is putting together a list of each state's geologist and will have it available shortly. Kevin Mickey reported that in Indiana they collaborate closely with the State Geological Survey. Indiana also works closely with the Silver Jackets Group. "The Silver Jackets Program is a program through which the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and other Federal agencies create an interagency team at the state level to develop and implement solutions to state natural hazard priorities. The Silver Jackets Program provides a formal and consistent strategy for an interagency approach to planning and implementing measures to reduce the risks associated with natural hazards. The program's primary goals are to leverage information and resources, improve public risk communication through a united effort, and create a mechanism to collaboratively solve issues and implement initiatives."¹ Florida reports that they also collaborate closely with the state meteorologist. Texas reports working closely with the Texas Natural Resource Information System. The mission of TNRI is to provide a "centralized information system incorporating all Texas natural resource data, socioeconomic data related to natural resources, and indexes related to that data that are collected by state agencies or other entities."²

¹ <http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/nfrmp/docs/Silver%20Jackets%20-%20Many%20Agencies,%20One%20Solution.pdf>

² <http://www.tnris.state.tx.us/About.aspx>

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Vince Brown mentioned that collecting success stories regarding any of these collaborations with state agencies would be beneficial.

HAZUS Training

HAZUS Training requires funding, space and facilitation. A discussion took place regarding what is available and what is needed. Each state and HUG seems to be finding their own way with training without a clear sense of what is available nationally. Jamie Caplan will seek some answers and present the information in one of the next conference calls. In the meantime, the Heartland HUG is planning on a training session for September, the Central HUG plans to hold a training session as part of their kick-off meeting in the next year. Florida reports the need for additional funding for training.

South Carolina Web Portal

Joe Rachel reports that the South Carolina Web Portal is in development and should be a model and tool that all coastal states may use. The Web Portal is a good model for the nation and will be reviewed in detail on a future call.

Comprehensive Data Management System (CDMS)

This new HAZUS tool will be discussed in detail on a future conference call.

Below is some information copied from www.hazus.org:

A new comprehensive data management system (CDMS) will permit HAZUS-MH MR3 users to update and manage the statewide datasets that support analysis in HAZUS-MH. To be released in September 2007, Version 1.0 of the CDMS will operate as a single user or shared desktop application. Currently, incorporating new data into a statewide dataset requires considerable effort. The new CDMS will simplify this task by streamlining data conversion from external sources into HAZUS-MH-compliant data and data transfer into and out of a statewide dataset. Processing of site-specific and aggregate information at both the census block and tract levels will be supported, and all new data will be validated. Once new data are added to a statewide dataset, the CDMS will allow users to query, sort, export, and print information. The CDMS also will include a backwards compatibility utility that will convert HAZUS-MH datasets created with earlier versions of the software into MR3 datasets. The new CDMS will replace the Building Information Tool (BIT) and the Inventory Collection and Survey Tool (InCAST) currently used with HAZUS-MH.