

# National HUG Conference Call

[www.hazus.org](http://www.hazus.org)

<http://nibs.org/hazusweb/>

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

## MINUTES – May 15, 2007

### Call Participants

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| 1. Beth Howser, PBS&J                                       | 9. Jonathan Salomon, NESEC                                     |
| 2. Bob Archila, FEMA R1                                     | 10. Liz Wojdak, Southern California Association of Governments |
| 3. Daniel Balberchak, Michael Baker, Map Modernization Team | 11. Marty Vitiello, URS  |
| 4. Dean Speaks, Heartland HUG                               | 12. Rich Davies, Western Disaster Center                       |
| 5. Doug Huls, CA OES  | 13. Ron Hess, Nevada Division of Mines & Geology               |
| 6. Eric Berman, FEMA Headquarters                           | 14. Shari Brand, FEMA R6                                       |
| 7. Gale Foss, Gale Foss Design                              | 15. Val Jaffe, Big Sky HUG                                     |
| 8. Jamie Caplan, Jamie Caplan Consulting                    |  |

### Future Call Dates – Calls are held from 4 – 5:30 PM Eastern Time

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- June 26, 2007
- July 24, 2007
- August 14, 2007

### Topics for next calls

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- Success Stories – including specific studies, HAZUS use for mitigation and Flood Module uses
- Regular updates from FEMA Headquarters regarding HAZUS development
- Funding for HAZUS projects and HAZUS related software
- Data – migrating Level 2 data to future HAZUS releases
- HAZUS Knowledge Base – this will be started as a bulletin board on [www.hazus.org](http://www.hazus.org)
- Input from the user community for [www.hazus.org](http://www.hazus.org) development

### National HAZUS Conference Agenda – June 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>

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This is sure to be a fabulous conference. Speakers are coming from around the country. Fred Sharrocks from the Mitigation Directorate at FEMA Headquarters will be giving Opening Remarks. Jack Dangermond, President of ESRI will speak on Wednesday morning in a general session. The conference is held in conjunction with the ESRI conference.

Jamie Caplan and Beth Howser gave a brief report on the agenda. The agenda will be posted to [www.hazus.org](http://www.hazus.org). Everyone is encouraged to register.

There are sponsorship opportunities still available. If you are interested please contact Beth Howser at [bmhowser@pbsj.com](mailto:bmhowser@pbsj.com).

### HAZUS Awards

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If you have yet to participate in the HAZUS award program please do. Nomination forms for HAZUS User of the Month and the HAZUS Conference are available on [www.hazus.org](http://www.hazus.org). Users

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of the Month have been nominated for March, April and May. Nominations are needed for the summer months as well as the HAZUS Conference. This is a great way to show support and appreciation for co-workers. Awards will be mailed to individuals who are not present at the HAZUS Conference.

### Individual HUG Reports

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#### **SoCalHUG - Doug Huls**

The SoCalHUG had a recent conference call to discuss a change in leadership; Mark Benthien has been the SoCalHUG leader for nearly ten years. The group hopes to put together a partnership, between CAOES and SCAG, to lead the group. They anticipate holding regular conference calls similar to the National HUG Leadership calls with a featured speaker. And, they hope to have an in-person meeting in the fall in conjunction with the release of MR3.

#### **New England HUG - Bob Archila**

FEMA Region 1 has been working in conjunction with NESEC to design and carry out exercises in New England. They worked together for the Ardent Sentry Exercise which is part of the Northern Command of the U.S. Army. NESEC developed damage and loss estimates for all six New England states with extra focus on wind and flood damage in Vermont and New Hampshire.

Jonathan Salomon of NESEC had developed HAZUS real-time hurricane analysis which will help in terms of evacuation, FEMA funding, debris removal, shelter needs, basic damages estimates, etc.

#### **NVHUG - Ron Hess**

HAZUS will be featured in a session at the State GIS Conference this week.

#### **FEMA R6 HUGs - Shari Brand**

FEMA R6 recently formed an internal GIS Working Group and has put a proposal together to expand the GIS capability in the region for mitigation, response and recovery. If the proposal is funded, FEMA R6 hopes that it will lead to renewed effort for the HUGs in the region.

Chuck Gregg is leaving R6 and heading back to his home town of Kansas City to work at FEMA R7. Chuck Gregg has been a strong supporter of the R6 HUGs and he will be missed.

Doug Bausch has been assisting the Baton Rouge Geospatial Office with a HAZUS validation study that is looking specifically at water depth grids and high water marks. The GIS staff is hoping to partner with the City of New Orleans to teach them HAZUS; FEMA is coordinating with John Pine, LSU on this effort.

#### **Heartland HUG - Dean Speaks**

The Heartland HUG recently held a risk assessment class with 20 people. They are also planning to teach a Basic HAZUS course as part of the Kansas Association of Mappers' September conference. The Heartland HUG plans to put together a newsletter on a regular basis

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with tips and tricks and other pertinent HAZUS information. The Heartland is in the middle of a flood disaster they are running HAZUS along with actual damage maps from aerial photos and comparing the two. Jamie recommended that this comparison turn into a success story and possible white paper.

BAHUG and Central Valley HUG – Rich Davies

The Central Valley HUG is mobilizing gradually and should become quite active when the new Flood Module is released.

Big Sky HUG – Val Jaffe

Still need funding and more interest.

HAZUS.org – Rich Davies

The on-line database has a bug that Rich is working on finding and fixing. It is still possible to register.