



FEMA

HAZUS-MH - Lessons Learned and Moving Forward in Florida

The State of Florida – During the 2005 hurricane season, the HAZUS-MH outputs were used in State Emergency Response Team (SERT) briefings following each National Hurricane Center advisory. Florida and FEMA are well positioned to build on lessons-learned from the 2005-2006 hurricane season to further develop and test the use of HAZUS-MH to support disaster operations.

A new initiative – led by FEMA, Florida DEM and the Florida HAZUS User Group (FLHUG) – should re-examine HAZUS-MH analysis to identify additional map-based templates that can be used in the 2008 hurricane season – for rapid needs assessment, response and recovery planning, and mitigation operations. The goal is to identify additional HAZUS-MH outputs that can be readily used by FEMA, Florida DEM and local governments to make decisions before, during and after hurricane landfall.

Once Florida DEM and FEMA have identified and prioritized HAZUS-MH templates for use in disaster operations, the next step is to develop the planning and technical capacity to fully integrate HAZUS-MH into disaster operations. Based on lessons learned from previous disaster operations using HAZUS-MH, it is recommended that a new strategy and action plan be based on a number of steps.

For the FLHUG, Collier County has taken the lead in promoting the integration of HAZUS-MH analysis into operations planning. Rick Zivoloski, Collier County Emergency Management and Chad Bowers, Bold Planning Solutions, have collaborated in the use of HAZUS-MH for local emergency management planning.

In 2007, HAZUS-MH has been used for Florida Catastrophic Hurricane Initiative, a FEMA sponsored project to increase readiness for major or catastrophic hurricanes in the southern part of Florida. As a regional loss estimation tool, HAZUS-MH is well suited for modeling potential impacts of scenario South Florida hurricane events on population, essential facilities, high potential loss (HPL) facilities, and transportation and utility lifelines.

The state of Florida continues to make progress in adapting HAZUS-MH to support disaster preparedness and response operations. This is due to the following: strong support from FEMA Region IV and FEMA Headquarters; leadership and coordination from the Florida DEM; and the active involvement and technical support from the FLHUG. The HAZUS-MH generated products that emerge from the Florida

Catastrophic Planning Initiative will add considerable value to these efforts.

A unique feature of HAZUS-MH is the ability to simulate changes in building practices through mitigation, and then estimate the savings or losses avoided as a result of these mitigation measures.

The FLHUG led initiative to promote the use of HAZUS-MH for mitigation and long-term recovery planning. It is anticipated the state of Florida will continue to make significant progress in 2008 in the use of HAZUS-MH for assessment, mitigation, response and recovery planning, at the state and local level.



State-wide,
Florida



Quick Facts

Sector:

Public/Private Partnership

Cost:

Amount Not Available

Primary Activity/Project:

HAZUS-MH

Primary Funding:

State sources