

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Rick Burgess
HAZUS Planning Specialist
FEMA Region IV, Mitigation Division, Risk Analysis Branch

Specific Responsibilities

Joined FEMA in (2008). Responsible for planning and facilitating education and outreach to organizations and individuals from government and private sector who are interested in using HAZUS-MH, the natural hazard loss estimation software for earthquake, flood and hurricanes. Responsibilities include promoting the use of educational opportunities in Region IV and the Emergency Management Institute, gathering feedback on the use of HAZUS within the eight region states of FEMA Region IV and championing enhancements and improvements by communicating with developers and FEMA Headquarters. The Risk Analysis Branch is currently also supporting FEMA and clients through HAZUS based risk analysis production services and technical support for clients within the region, states, local and tribal governments and the operational divisions of FEMA Regional Operations Center in Atlanta, Georgia. Additional production and technical services are provided by the Region IV Risk Analysis Branch to FEMA Headquarters and other FEMA Regions as a part of disaster operations. Communicating with HAZUS points of contacts throughout the region and supporting the HAZUS user group community is a high priority.

Past Experience

Rick's experience prior to FEMA included six years with City of Punta Gorda, Florida as GIS Planner and eleven years with City of St. Cloud, Florida as GIS Coordinator. During his employment with Punta Gorda he experienced Hurricane Charley, worked on the local mitigation strategy committee, acted as the local government representative for two Hazard Mitigation Grant Program projects (HMGP). Rick promoted the use of HAZUS, became the president of the Florida HAZUS User Group and has participated and presented at several state, regional and national level conferences and user group meetings. Disaster field response includes Hurricane Katrina.

Educational Information

B.S. - Business Management, University of Phoenix
HAZUS - Basic, Hurricane and Data Management, Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, MD.