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**-Breaking News –
Sandra Russaw –
CCG's Newest Hazus-MH
Professional!**



What is a Hazus-MH Professional?

Hazus-MH combines science, engineering and mathematical modeling with GIS Technology to estimate losses of life and property and shows those losses on a map.

Hazus-MH estimates impacts to the physical, social and economic vitality of a community from earthquakes, hurricane winds and floods.

“Congratulations Sandra!”

Created and Edited by:
Shondra Hogan & Jeff Griffin

Welcome to the GIS Division Newsletter! We hope to bring you news about our work and future projects. Let us here from you.

Interview with Riley Land, Deputy Director Emergency Management Division, Columbus Fire and EMS



How long have you been using GIS? **Five or six years now**

Describe how GIS data and or systems is used in your department.

We are end users of maps and demographic data linked to maps. Currently, the GIS Division is assisting the EOC in updating Columbus Consolidated Government's Mitigation Plan.

If GIS has improved something for your department, tell us how.

In the aftermath of the “F4 Tornado” that struck Columbus on March 1, 2007, the GIS Division was able to graphically portray damage assessments quickly and in a format that could be easily understood by experts as well as non-experts. These maps and data packages were instrumental in presenting to FEMA and GEMA for an almost immediate disaster declaration, which expedited the significant monetary re-imbusement to the City for expenses associated with the response.

On a day-to-day basis the user friendly lookups of maps and geographic information is extremely helpful in quantifying hazard profiles and associated threat analysis for emergency planning.

Tell us how your department performed the task(s) prior to utilizing GIS.

Maps were obtained from non-validated sources often with mixed results and often maps were annotated by hand with less than reliable data.

What would you like to see incorporated in GIS data or systems?

Standardized emergency "on call" protocols for quick and reliable access to subject matter experts within the GIS organization for emergency call outs during emergencies.

What is your department's future plans with GIS? **Continue to educate ourselves within the public safety community to developments and improvements in the GIS world so that we maintain a current understanding and integration of the latest technological developments.**

In what areas can GIS improve for your department? **You guys keep on keeping on with the exceptional progress that you have made so that we can continue to benefit from the expertise that you possess.**