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GIS Response Team Frequently Asked Questions

How does my agency get reimbursed for my time and travel when deployed as part of the GIS Response Team?

The GIS Response Team reimbursement protocols will be identical to those of the Local Incident Management Teams. The policy that covers reimbursement is the ***Adjutant General's Department, Kansas Division of Emergency Management Policy #0100108 Mutual Aid Agreement and Direct State Assistance Reimbursement (including Local Incident Management Teams)*** can be found at:

<http://www.kansas.gov/kdem/pdf/library/Kansas%20Mutual%20Aid%20Reimbursement%20Policy.pdf>

Specific information on Local Incident Management Teams can be found on page 5, section 3. All questions concerning this document should be directed to Jessica Frye (jessica.frye@tag.ks.gov or 785-274-1610).

As a member of the Team can I choose where I want to deploy to?

When requested, the GIS Unit in the State Emergency Operation Center will determine several GIS personnel closest to the incident site, but not affected by the disaster. The Team member will be provided the opportunity to determine if they are interested in being deployed through a "Request for Deployment". "Requests for Deployments" will be made through phone notification. Once enough Team members have been identified the GIS Unit will notify ALL Team members of the ongoing deployment and will request remaining Team members to express their interest in possible "Requests for Deployment" for the ongoing disaster ONLY. The question, "Are you willing to deploy for this disaster, if needed" will be posed to the remaining Team members. The response choices will be provided and will be:

1. I am willing to deploy.
2. I am directly involved in the disaster and cannot deploy.
3. I cannot deploy, but I am willing to assist from my office if needed.
4. I cannot deploy.

From this inquiry NO Team member will be deployed without phone notification to do so.

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How much notice will I receive to deploy?

The GIS Unit will request the Team member to indicate the length of time it will take for them to deploy. Most incidents/disasters will not require a Team member to deploy without 24 hours notice.

How long will I be deployed?

The length of deployment is dependent on the incident/disaster and will vary from a few hours to days. A Team member will NOT be deployed for over 7 days (this includes travel time to and from the deployment location). The Team member will be notified with the length of deployment when "Request for Deployment" occurs.

What do I need to bring when deployed?

Team members will need to bring sufficient personal items for their length of deployment. Team members will be provided a laptop with ESRI software loaded and all GIS base map data needed for the incident.

How often will I be deployed?

The goal is to have enough Team members so that deployments will be no more than one (1) time per calendar year. Team members will receive an updated status for this twice (2) a year at the bi-annual meetings and via email communications.

Is there a cost for the required training?

The cost for most of the training is only the time you spend to complete the course. All FEMA ICS courses are available through self-study at <http://training.fema.gov/IS/NIMS.asp>. Two currently required courses are only available through classroom training: ICS for Executives and Introduction to the U.S. National Grid. At this time there is not funding available to reimburse Team members for travel (including mileage and lodging) or per diem. The ICS for Executives is a one (1) day course and its location is dependent on the home base of Team members which at this time is not known. The Introduction to the U.S. National Grid is 3 - 5 days and is planned at this time to be held in Salina. This will require overnight stays. Currently, it is estimated that these two courses will be held during the summer or fall of 2009.

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What will I do during deployment?

As a Team member, you will be providing mapping and data support to one of the various entities listed in the overview of the application. The Kansas Adjutant General's Department has developed a set of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for different response scenarios and all Team members with FULL APPROVAL will receive a copy for review upon approval. Although, this SOP will be provided many still to be discovered map products may be requested. The GIS Unit of the State Emergency Operations Center will be available during a Team member's deployment to provide guidance during these situations.

How can I convince my supervisor the importance of this Team?

At this time the only incentive for supervisors to all GIS personnel to be a part of this Team in the valuable experience of the deployment that the Team member will return with. Without this team the state cannot provide the onsite GIS expertise that many counties lack and will not be in a position to provide back-fill to those GIS personnel working the disaster that must rest. Any supervisor that has questions can call Jessica Frye, Kansas Adjutant General's Department – GIS Coordinator at 785-274-1610 to discuss concerns or to answer questions.

I do NOT work for a government agency...can I be a part of the Team?

YES! Anyone with the necessary qualifications can be a part of the Team!