

STATE GIS RESPONSE TEAM

Following the Greensburg Tornado in 2007 GIS professionals across the state came together to identify ways responders could utilize GIS when faced with disasters of a similar magnitude. The group identified the need for a State GIS Response Team. To fill this need the Adjutant General's Department is developing a GIS Response Team with plans to launch it in April 2009.

GIS professionals across the state will have the opportunity to serve as a member of the Team. Team members may serve as Technical Specialists to Incident Management Teams, Local Emergency Operations Centers, the State Emergency Operations Center and other centers of operation identified during disasters.

For more information on the
State GIS Response Team
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REGIONAL GIS STRATEGY

*Kansas Adjutant General's Department
Kansas Data Access and Support Center
Kansas GIS Policy Board
The Kansas Collaborative
U.S. Geological Survey*

THE STRATEGY

The regional geographic information system (GIS) projects are part of a larger strategy to coordinate GIS efforts across the state. The catalyst for a GIS project was the formation of Incident Management Teams (IMTs). The goal of each region-wide GIS project is to create a critical information network about infrastructure, assets and key populations for use by the IMTs, first responders and decision makers. The information will then be available to aide in timely response to any event, natural or man-made, across the region and eventually statewide.

All Homeland Security Regions are working in conjunction with the Adjutant General's Department on regional GIS projects. The regions are:

- South Central
- Northwest
- Southwest
- North Central
- Southeast
- Northeast

REGIONAL PROJECT OVERVIEW

The goal of these projects is to delineate the status of current GIS efforts in all Kansas counties so future GIS efforts—local, regional and state—can pursue the ultimate goal of having critical data available for response and recovery efforts. GIS data is vital when disasters strike and often requires outside responders to provide support when it crosses jurisdictional boundaries or the magnitude is great. Each project has eight objectives:

1. County and city level **GIS Inventory** of all related data, equipment, and personnel. [State-level GIS data is provided during the visits.]
2. **Free offsite GIS data back-up** at the Data Access and Support Center (DASC).
3. Formation of a **GIS Technical Sub-Committee** in each homeland security region to facilitate discussions between decision makers, responders, and GIS personnel.

4. **Most Valuable Professional Meetings** to introduce the project to local responders and allow them the opportunity to identify their discipline's *critical* data needs.
5. GIS Data **Gap Analysis** to determine existing data gaps in the region and a plan to close the gaps.
6. Various **GIS Training** opportunities. [Introduction to ArcGIS, Introduction to the US National Grid, Introduction to GPS, Introduction to Regional GPS Data Collection, and Usage of the Regional Geodatabase]
7. Purchase of **GIS Equipment** [ArcGIS Software, Mapping Grade GPS Units, etc] for use by GIS professional to support emergency management activities.
8. Development of **Region and Statewide GIS Applications** for use by the Incident Management Teams, Emergency Managers and decision makers at all levels of government.

-Status as of February 16, 2009-

