Federal Operation Center Geospatial Practices

The GeoCONOPS describes the geospatial services of the six primary operation centers:

- DHS National Operations Center
- DHS National Infrastructure Coordinating Center
- FEMA National Response Coordination Center
- FEMA Joint Field Operations
- Joint Interagency Operations
- State/Local Operating Facility

These centers are the geospatial community nexus for gathering, compiling and distributing information before, during and after a disaster. Their geospatial services and coordination methods are described in the GeoCONOPS Section Four, Disaster Operations.

Best Practices

The GeoCONOPS Best Practices highlight more than a dozen mature methods and innovative practices for geospatial management processes, analysis, data products, technology, and models that are addressing key emergency response needs at the national, regional and field levels. Examples include:

- Requests for Information
- Field Data Collection Tools
- Advisory Base Flood Elevations
- Damage Assessments
- Field Data Collection Tools
- Commodities Model
- Advisory Flood Elevations

Best Practices are embedded throughout the GeoCONOPS as short summary examples of geospatial activities related to each section's explanatory content. A list of and links to the Best Practices appears in the table of contents.

Authoritative Data

Over 1,000 unique, authoritative data themes are catalogued in the GeoCONOPS. These data themes, discovered through the development of the GeoCONOPS, provide either national or expert authorities on topics key in supporting emergency management missions, operational elements, and functions. The themes are characterized by agency point of contact, representation type, availability, use restrictions, emergency support function alignment, and internet accessibility. Subsets of authoritative data are incorporated throughout the GeoCONOPS, to relate known critical information to the document contents.

A complete listing of all identified authoritative data themes is contained in Appendix B, Authoritative Data Matrix.

About GeoCONOPS

The GeoCONOPS describes geospatial resources and activities supporting Homeland Security operations and Emergency Management functions. The GeoCONOPS includes:

- Community Analysis and Model (located on back)
- Requirements and activities for disaster response missions areas
- Requirements and activities for mitigation mission support
- A detailed scenario of response activities and standards, models, and tools
- Authoritative Data (located on back)
- Federal Operations Centers (located in back)
- Best Practices (located in back)
- Discussion, scenarios, and examples of response activities
- Current resources and capabilities such as national, state and analytical models
- Raising awareness of the roles, responsibilities, capabilities and activities across the interagency function
- Establishing authoritative rules, resources and analytical models for emergency support
- Enhancing the sharing of authoritative data
- Building an interagency strategy for geospatial technology and resource optimization in any incident

Get Connected

The GeoCONOPS is managed and supported by the DHS Geospatial Management Office in coordination with the project’s Geospatial Interagency Oversight Team. The project shares all documents, its operating calendar, and participant contact information via the Geospatial Information Community on the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) at https://government.hsn.gov/sites/GIS. Contact the project team by email at GeoCONOPS@dhs.gov for any questions about the GeoCONOPS or to join the Community on HSIN.
The Community Model shows:

- Core guidance on governance, policies, and processes as provided by Presidential Policy Directive 8 (PPD-8) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS).
- High-level mission areas that drive activities and information requirements.
- Key actors and stakeholders – the state authorities and the public law authorities – and their relationships.
- The information environment and transactional information exchanges.

The GeoCONOPS uses a Community Analysis approach to characterize by whom and how geospatial capabilities are being deployed for Federal interagency homeland security operations in support of disaster and emergency response under the Stafford Act. This analysis is captured in this GeoCONOPS Community Model – an illustrated enterprise operational framework that enables participating organizations to see how the geospatial community interacts to accomplish the homeland security and emergency mission.

Learn More About...

Core Capabilities

The GeoCONOPS classifies Emergency Management activities into five high-level areas - Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery - to capture the current geospatial capabilities outlined by Presidential Policy Directive 4 (PPD-4). The key geospatial requirements, expertise, operations, and products are described in Section Three - Specific Mission Areas, and are incorporated into the New Madrid Natural Disaster and the Super Bowl Man-Made Scenario discussed in Section Five.

Public Law Authorities

Numerous Federal departments and agencies and the American Red Cross provide disaster and emergency response assistance to the state authorities based on the NRF. For the Community Model, these have been organized into five functional groups: Operations/Coordination, Information Support Services, Infrastructure, People, and Civil Support. The actors, their services, and their information responsibilities are described throughout the GeoCONOPS.

Operations/Coordination

Serves as the central access point for the request for resources and assistance as well as information and reports provided to other geospatial community segments and state and local entities described in Chapter Four, Disaster Operations.

Civil Support

Provides support in response to homeland security related disaster incidents. The key participants are the National Guard Bureau (NGB), National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), and US Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) Mission Assurance Division (MAD). Data products identified in Appendix B, Authoritative Data Matrix.

Infrastructure

Provides assessment information regarding buildings, schools, dams, levees, and other man-made structures; as well as the impact to the local community and environment. Described in Section Three, Specific Mission Areas; data products identified in Appendix B, Authoritative Data Matrix.

Information Support Services

Provides modeling, weather, border, and geological-related information in response to a disaster incident. Described in Section Three, Specific Mission Areas; data products identified in Appendix B, Authoritative Data Matrix.

People

Provides information regarding services to victims of disaster incidents including lifesaving, employment, shelters, legal, and health-related information. Described in Section Three, Specific Mission Areas; data products identified in Appendix B, Authoritative Data Matrix.

State Authorities

As disasters occur, non-Federal government organizations - state, local, territorial, and tribal governments - are responsible for providing immediate response and support regarding the disaster incident based on governing state authorities. A state Governor, working with the state Emergency Operations Centers (EOC), can interact directly with Federal Operations/Coordination actors based on PPD-8 doctrine and the NIMS guidelines for requesting assistance, providing information, and facilitating effective coordination.