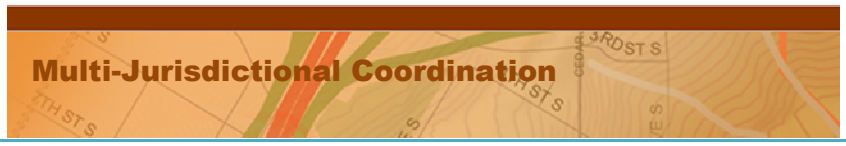
CARAT | Field Operations Guide



By: Partner Organizations

Organizations:

- ***San Diego Regional Geographic Information Network (SDREGIN)***
- ***Orange County Fire Authority***
- ***LA City Fire Department***

Brief Explanation: Sharing Data across multiple jurisdictions and disciplines requires good governance, planning and standard operating procedures. This case study provides guidance on how to establish these practices.

Department Background:	***Size:***	***GIS Ability:***
Three Departments represent multiple agencies in Southern California	☐ *Small* X *Medium* X *Large*	☐ *None* X *In House* ☐ *Separate Department*

Data Needed:

Data is derived from geodatabases and shared in multiple ways. All jurisdictions have implemented sound data management practices and IT infrastructures. Strategic planning is key to this ongoing effort.

- Fire Service GIS Data model
- Public Safety GIS Resource Center

Software Required:

- Depending on the project requirements consider the following guidelines
  - Always use standards based, open interoperable
  - Commercial off the shelf software can reduce development costs

Skills to perform tasks (i.e. Network Analysis, GIS Data editing, etc.):

- Strategic planning
- GIS Project Management
- Executive Leadership
- Strong Core GIS analytic
- Application Development skills

Procedure:

Steps in the Planning Process

1. Needs assessment for projects, analysis, applications and services
2. Assess data requirements
3. Gap analysis: what you have, what you are missing
4. Assess how you will provide required services
5. Determine management and governance
6. Find a champion
7. Determine data model, data sharing procedures and data management tools
8. Develop an Implementation plan

Planning Considerations

1. Work with agencies involved
   a. Local First Responders
   b. Decision makers
2. Understand their needs
   a. What questions they will ask
   b. What analysis they will need
   c. Find appropriate data and ensure its availability in the system
3. Build in redundancies
   a. Connectivity

    b. Resident
    c. Laptops for relocation

4. Establish Governance Structure
    a. Identify appropriate governance bodies to provide
        i. Support
        ii. Advocacy
        iii. authority
    b. Reach agreement among decision makers
    c. Put policies /Memorandums of Understanding in place

5. Build your social network
    a. Need to know people prior to the event
    b. You need to know people both within and outside your local area
    c. When the event happens, should not be 'who are you' – but 'good to see you again'

Data Sharing Guidelines; coordinating across jurisdictions

1. Get their contact information
2. Build their trust
3. Work out a methodology
    d. Phone call
    e. Publishing on internet
    f. Planning together to share on daily/ongoing basis through system/infrastructure

Preparing for an incident

1. Adopt a standard operating procedure
2. Define GIS positions
3. Develop a resource list (what you need prior to response)
4. Communicate to participants that the capability is available

During an incident

1. Listen to what responders need
2. Translate into GIS
3. Do NOT use GIS-speak

Additional Resources for multi-disciplinary coordination

San Diego Regional Emergency Geographic Information Network (SDREGIN) Planning Docs and SOP's
Wildland Fire GIS Standard Operating Procedure
Orange County Fire Authority Enterprise GIS