



# NAPSG News

NAPSG Foundation Newsletter

Winter 2014

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## New Resources Available!

Check out the new resources on the NAPSG Website:

- **Standard Operating Guide Template for Coastal Storms**
- **User Presentations on best practices from our 2014 Southeast Workshop**

## Dear Friends & Colleagues,

2014 was a very successful year at NAPSG Foundation. Together we launched new programs, released new tools, and delivered training to a record number of GIS responders and public safety leaders nationwide. We appreciate all that you have contributed to making our collective effort a success last year.

But there is so much more to be done - and we're ready to hit the ground running in 2015! This Winter & Spring we will be offering skills-based training opportunities virtually. Registration is already open for the first two, so be sure to visit our website and [register today!](#)

This edition of NAPSG News provides you with an update of our accomplishments in 2014 and an eye into our latest plans for new tools, enhancements, new training initiatives, regional workshops and new initiatives. We are also in the process of planning for the first ever *National Geospatial Preparedness Summit*, which will be held in Washington, DC in early May. Stay turned for a Save the Date notice!

I hope you find the Winter 2014 edition of our newsletter valuable to your work, whether you are a local first responder, state official, GIS responder, Federal agency or private company - you are a part of our community! Thank you for supporting our common mission.

**Happy Holidays!**  
**Chairman, Rand Napoli &**  
**NAPSG Foundation Board & Staff**





## 2014 NAPSG Year in Review

Below are a few of the key results that illustrate what we've accomplished together and that reaffirm the importance for our continued work in 2015.

- Delivered **5** in-person workshops and **7** virtual training sessions.
- Reached over **1,650** public safety officials and GIS responders through NAPSG's education & training programming delivered around the country.
- Participation from responders from all **50** states (plus several other countries).
- Over **80%** represented local, county, tribal, and state level participants.
- Released enhancements to our Capabilities & Readiness Assessment Tool.
- Released Version 1.0 of a GIS Standard Operating Guidance Template for Coastal Storms.
- Kicked-off the next phase of standardized incident symbology set and framework.
- Initiated the development of a core set of qualifications for public safety GIS job titles and a public safety GIS competency model.
- And much more...

## Cultivating the Next Generation of GIS Responders

Highlights from the 1st Compression Seminar with FEMA Corps



In 2014, NAPSG launched a new program that is working to build the capacity of the next generation of GIS Responders. This capacity building program is being developed and delivered in an iterative process over the nine (9) months with one of the AmeriCorps Teams assigned to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This cadre of emerging leaders in public safety GIS represents the next generation of GIS responders that will be leading the way in applying location enabled decision support tools to preparedness efforts and real world

events nationwide.

NAPSG's capacity building program involves multiple components that includes, but is not limited to:

- **Awareness Level and Skills Training** - Which is complimentary to existing GIS training offered by Esri, URISA, and others.
- **Practitioner Mentorship** - Each individual is partnered-up with a practitioner from NAPSG's Regional Leadership Teams, where they are able to get expert feedback on a weekly basis.
- **Compression Seminars** - There are 3-4 of these seminars annually that provide hands-on

training, GIS-focused tabletop exercises, and simulations for GIS Responders.

In mid-December, NAPSG delivered the first compression seminar that introduced a new way to equip GIS practitioners with the knowledge, skills and abilities to become successful GIS Responders. We developed and introduced new training and simulation techniques that redefine how public safety GIS education is delivered. These new techniques incorporated the full spectrum of GIS tools - desktop, mobile, and web-based - and were brought together through real world event scenarios and the spatial data generated and used during those events.

A special thank you to NAPSG's Instructor and Mentor Team, which is leading the charge with this successful program!

**Want to bring a similar training to your agency?** Contact NAPSG to discuss what type of training program or technical assistance is best suited to meet your agency's needs and training budget - Send an email to [admin@publicsafetygis.org](mailto:admin@publicsafetygis.org)

## ***New Tools & Resources Available***

### Check Out the SOG on Coastal Storms Guidance



The public safety community needs the right tools to provide guidance and direction on the use of geospatial technology. We've been working hard to fulfill this need by working with other local, state and Federal responders to develop some key tools that are designed to meet the needs you've identified.

We've just released 3 new tools that you should find very useful to your agency!

#### **Recently Released:**

- [Capability & Readiness Assessment Tool \(CARAT\)](#) - It's a web-based tool that gives you basics on GIS; several case studies on GIS use for different applications, and a crawl>walk>run model for understanding your current capabilities and desired future state. *Keep in mind - CARAT is still evolving and expanding, NAPSG plans to build out more content and start on an interactive assessment component in 2015!*
- [GIS Standard Operating Guidance Template for Coastal Storms](#) - It is a template guidance document intended to provide public safety with a starting point in developing an agency's guidelines for coordinating GIS efforts during coastal storms. Version 1.0 is a living document that will be updated as more and more local agencies adopt GIS operating procedures and contribute lessons learned from real world coastal storms. It is a supplement to our other SOGs, which also are available for download.
- [Implementation Guide to the US National Grid](#) - This guide is designed to provide information about the application of the USNG in public safety and to help users nationwide understand the steps necessary to implement the USNG for the whole community.

#### **Coming in 2015!**

- **Updated Incident Symbolology & Implementation Toolkit**- We've kicked off the next phase of work in developing a standardized incident symbol set and framework. This is an important effort that supports a unity-of-effort in response and recovery operations nationwide across all levels of government and with the private sector. In early 2015 we will be releasing an Overview Document on this effort for public comment and a Survey for your feedback. Your input in this process is critical, please stay tuned for more!
- **Qualifications for Public Safety GIS Job Titles and Competency Model** - Building from the great work of the Department of Labor, URISA, and others, we will be developing

version 1.0 of a standardized set of minimum qualifications for public safety GIS job titles supported by a Public Safety GIS Competency Model.

- Other resources are in development. Check back on our [website](#) for the latest information!

## **Upcoming Events - Join Us in 2015!**

### **Virtual Training Series - All are Free of Charge**

**January 27:** [Learn How To Geocode for Your Public Safety Agency](#) - Register Today!

**February 26:** [Learn Techniques for Efficient Public Safety Routing](#) - Register Today!

More to be announced soon on our [Events Page](#)!

### **NAPSG In-Person Workshops - 2015**

**May** - National Preparedness Geospatial Summit - *Washington, DC*

**Summer** - GIS for Fire Accreditation Workshop - *New Jersey*

## ***Private Sector Partner Highlights***

Central to the NAPSG Foundation mission is to promote collaboration between the public safety & homeland security communities and the private sector around issues relevant to our common mission. NAPSG is committed to engaging companies to further advance the use of geospatial technology among public safety -- where NAPSG maintains independent views and does not endorse any specific products.

- The [HERE](#) partnership continued in 2014. We are collaborating in the development and delivery of a set of public safety GIS tutorials using ArcGIS Online and HERE data. The first two tutorials are available through our [Capability and Readiness Assessment Tool](#) (CARAT) and include sample data sets. In early 2015 we will be conducting two virtual trainings on how to use these online tutorials.
- The partnership with [Esri](#) continued in 2014 with a series of co-hosted in-person workshops on GIS for Fire Accreditation, which were a great success. NAPSG plans to work with our Regional Leadership Teams to bring this education opportunity to other areas of the country in 2015. We also look forward to the upcoming Esri Federal User Conference, Esri Homeland/National Security Summit, and the Esri International User Conference in 2015!

To learn more about our Annual Private Partners Program and event sponsorships for our 2015 workshops, contact Peter O'Rourke at [porourke@publicsafetygis.org](mailto:porourke@publicsafetygis.org) or by phone at 202-895-1711.

**A Special Thank You our Platinum Level Annual Private Sector Partners!**



## ***Looking to Support Advanced Use of Technology in Public Safety?*** Partnership opportunities available with NAPSG Foundation

Here at NAPSG Foundation, we are dedicated to fostering strong partnerships with agencies at all levels of government, academic institutions, NGOs, and with the private sector. We understand that our work requires collaboration and cooperation with the entire public safety and homeland security community.

In response, we have launched special partnership programs. We encourage you to learn more about our partnership opportunities by contacting the NAPSG Executive Director, Peter O'Rourke at [porourke@publicsafetygis.org](mailto:porourke@publicsafetygis.org) or by phone at 202-895-1711.

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