NAVIGATING THE FLAMES

Unlocking the Power of GIS for the Local Fire Service

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InSPIRE

Innovation Summit for Preparedness & Resilience

Navigating the Flames: Unlocking the Power of GIS for the Local Fire Service

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Objective

Explore how and why Charlottesville Fire Dept. created a GIS neighborhood risk assessment

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Charlottesville Fire Department

Community Risk Assessment

- Demographic profile
- Weather patterns
- Transportation
- Special hazards
- Built environment

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The right people for the job...

Joe Powers, Former CFD Deputy Chief of Community Risk Reduction

→ Doug Caldwell, GIS volunteer

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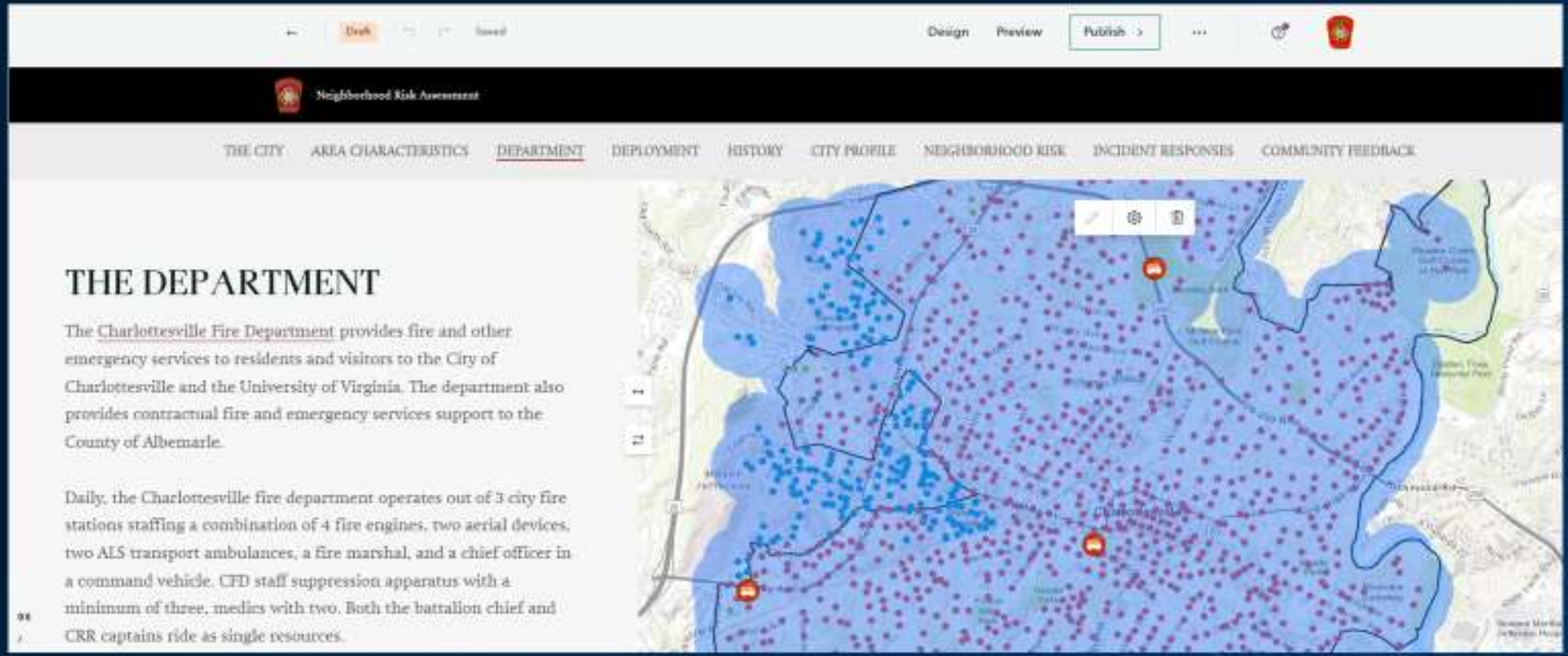
It All Started with a Story Map...



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Nuts and Bolts of CFD's Neighborhood Risk Assessment Hub Site

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IAFC
International Association of Fire Chiefs

IAFC GIS Toolkits

NAPSG INSPIRE

Two Examples

Wildfire Evacuation Planning

Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment & Retention

Wildfire Problem

- Wildfire threats to communities continue to grow.
- Communities are moving closer and into the WUI.
- As such, more people are needing to be evacuated in shorter periods of time, more frequently as the fires are growing larger and more common.
- Rural communities often lack access to innovative technologies.

Evacuation Planning Toolkit Vision

An interactive web-based **Wildfire Evacuation Planning Toolkit** (targeted to rural departments with limited resources) to aid local jurisdictions in evacuation planning. The Evacuation Planning Toolkit allows users to:

1) Assess their current capabilities

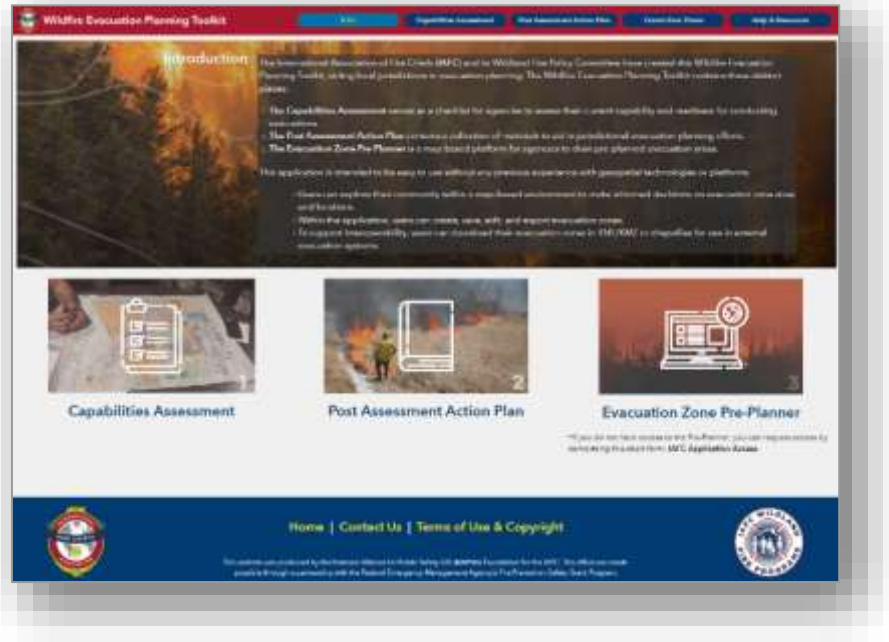
   (Wildfire Evacuation Capability Assessment)

1) View evacuation resources and create a post-assessment action plan

   (Post Assessment Action Plan)

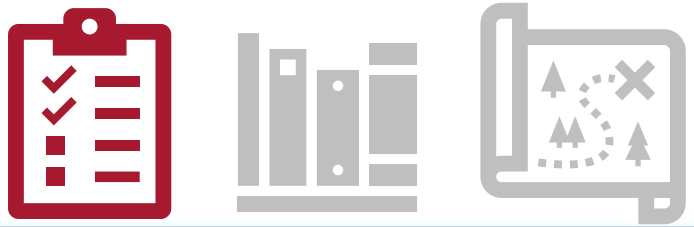
2) Explore their community within a map-based application to create evacuation zones

   (Evacuation Zone Pre-Planning Application)



Wildfire Evacuation Capability Assessment

- The Wildfire Evacuation Capability Assessment serves as a checklist for agencies to assess their current capability and readiness for conducting evacuations.
  - Online (Survey123) & PDF download walks an agency through the Planning, Organizing, Equipping, Training, and Exercising (POETE) process as it pertains to evacuation planning.
  - Developed by the stakeholder group, with input from the broader IAFC Wildfire community, to determine items to be included in the capability assessment.



Wildfire Evacuation Planning Toolkit

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This application is intended to be easy to use without any previous experience with geospatial technologies or platforms.

- Users can explore their community within a map-based environment to make informed decisions on evacuation zone sizes and locations.
- Within the application, users can create, save, edit, and export evacuation zones.
- To support interoperability, users can download their evacuation zones in KML/KMZ or shapefiles for use in external evacuation systems.

Capabilities Assessment

Post Assessment Action Plan

Evacuation Zone Pre-Planner

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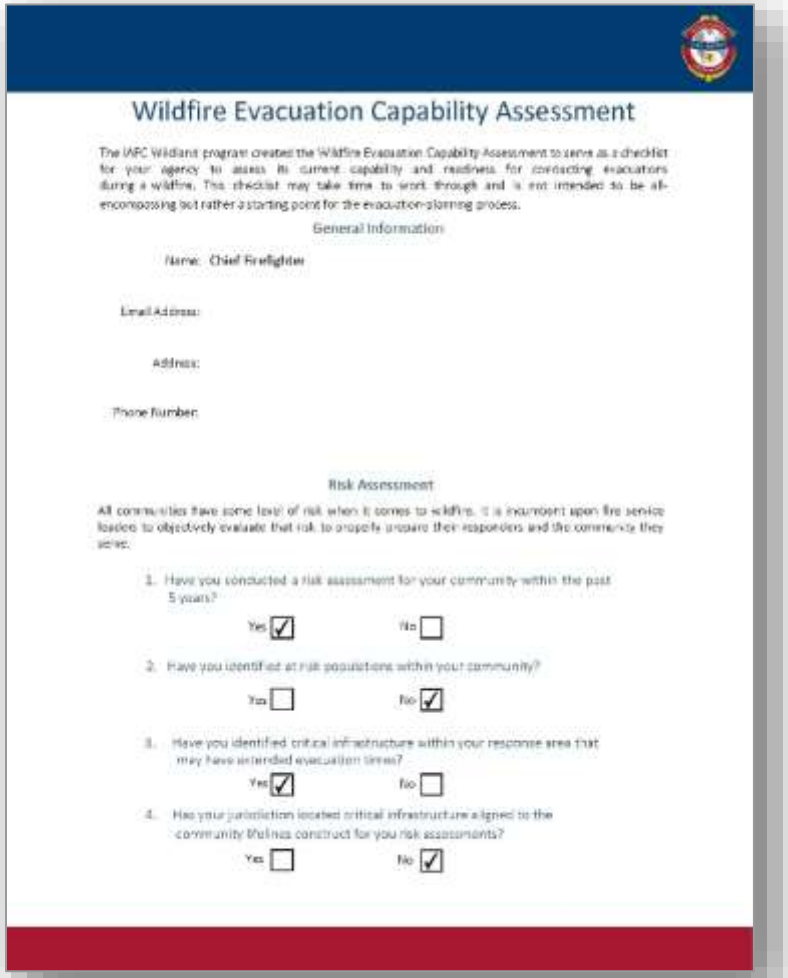
Capabilities Assessment



Wildfire Evacuation Capability Assessment

The IAFC Wildland program created the Wildfire Evacuation Capability Assessment to serve as a checklist for your agency to assess its current capability and readiness for conducting evacuations during a wildfire. This checklist may take time to work through and is not intended to be all-encompassing but rather a starting point for the evacuation-planning process.

General Information

Name: Chief Firefighter

Email Address:

Address:

Phone Number:

Risk Assessment

All communities have some level of risk when it comes to wildfire. It is incumbent upon fire service leaders to objectively evaluate that risk to properly prepare their responders and the community they serve.

1. Have you conducted a risk assessment for your community within the past 5 years?
   Yes ☑ No ☐
2. Have you identified at-risk populations within your community?
   Yes ☐ No ☑
3. Have you identified critical infrastructure within your response area that may have extended evacuation times?
   Yes ☑ No ☐
4. Has your jurisdiction located critical infrastructure aligned to the community lifelines construct for you risk assessments?
   Yes ☐ No ☑

Relationships

As you begin this process, it is imperative that you have all the right partners at the table. Every jurisdiction is different in its approach to evacuations; however, the following list of possible partners should be considered:

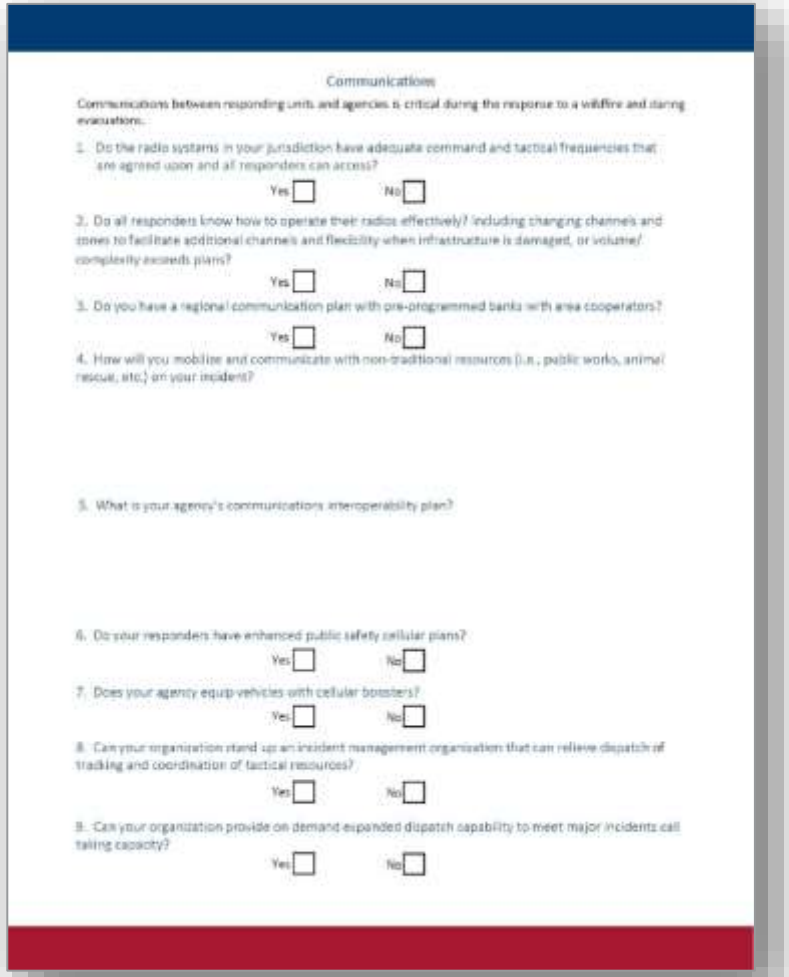
Traditional

- Neighboring fire jurisdictions
- Law enforcement (local, state, county)
- Emergency management
- Land management agencies (NPS, BLM, BIA, USFS, State, etc.)
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Tribal Partners

Non-Traditional

- Public works
- Planning/zoning/code enforcement
- Water departments/irrigation districts
- Key private landowners
- Homeowner/Neighborhood Associations
- Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP Partners)
- Interested/invested citizens - community advocates
- Utilities
  - Gas
  - Pipeline
  - Electric
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)/conservation districts
- School districts
- 4H/cooperative extension service/animal control
- Fish and Wildlife - state and federal
- DOT/highway/roads
  - Identify agency contacts and process for requesting modifications of traffic and/or closures.
  - High-risk/vulnerable areas
- Non-governmental organizations(NGOs) like The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- Universities - fire modeling programs, early fire detection networks
- National Guard units - especially aviation units
- Faith-based and cultural groups
- Large Employers
- Health and Human Services
- Large-Animal Rescue Teams
- National Weather Service
- Media

1. Do you have a good understanding of all the partners who need to be involved in your jurisdiction?
   Yes ☐ No ☐



Communications

Communications between responding units and agencies is critical during the response to a wildfire and during evacuations.

1. Do the radio systems in your jurisdiction have adequate command and tactical frequencies that are agreed upon and all responders can access?
   Yes ☐ No ☐
2. Do all responders know how to operate their radios effectively? Including changing channels and zones to facilitate additional channels and flexibility when infrastructure is damaged, or volume/complexity exceeds plans?
   Yes ☐ No ☐
3. Do you have a regional communication plan with pre-programmed banks with area cooperators?
   Yes ☐ No ☐
4. How will you mobilize and communicate with non-traditional resources (i.e., public works, animal rescue, etc.) on your incident?
5. What is your agency's communications interoperability plan?
6. Do your responders have enhanced public safety cellular plans?
   Yes ☐ No ☐
7. Does your agency equip vehicles with cellular boosters?
   Yes ☐ No ☐
8. Can your organization stand up an incident management organization that can relieve dispatch of tracking and coordination of tactical resources?
   Yes ☐ No ☐
9. Can your organization provide on demand expanded dispatch capability to meet major incidents call taking capacity?
   Yes ☐ No ☐

Download as PDF

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3. **The Evacuation Zone Pre-Planner** is a map-based platform for agencies to draw pre-planned evacuation areas.

This application is intended to be easy to use without any previous experience with geospatial technologies or platforms.

- Users can explore their community within a map-based environment to make informed decisions on evacuation zone sizes and locations.
- Within the application, users can create, save, edit, and export evacuation zones.
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Capabilities Assessment

Post Assessment Action Plan

Evacuation Zone Pre-Planner

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Post Assessment Action Plan | W

experience.arcgis.com/experience/056e3765adce4547964 3f39432d73763/page/Post-Assessment-Action-Plan/

Wildfire Evacuation Planning Toolkit

Intro | Capabilities Assessment | Post Assessment Action Plan | Create Evac Zones | Help & Resources

This page contains a list of links to resources specifically designed to help an agency address gaps identified during the Wildfire Evacuation Capability Assessment. Use these resources to help your agency navigate the complicated wildfire evacuation pre-planning process. If you have any resources you think could be helpful, complete this short survey to add them to the collection: **Wildfire Evacuation Resource Submission**

To help fill gaps addressed in the Wildfire Evacuation Capability Assessment, relevant wildfire evacuation planning resources are provided.

Risk Assessment

Wildfire Risk to Communities Viewer (Webapp)
Wildland-Urban Interface Chief's Guide 2nd Edition (Risk Assessment)
Homeland Infrastructure Foundation-Level Data (HIFLD)

Relationships

Wildland-Urban Interface Chief's Guide 2nd Edition (Relationships)

Jurisdictional Responsibility/Agreements

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Capabilities Assessment

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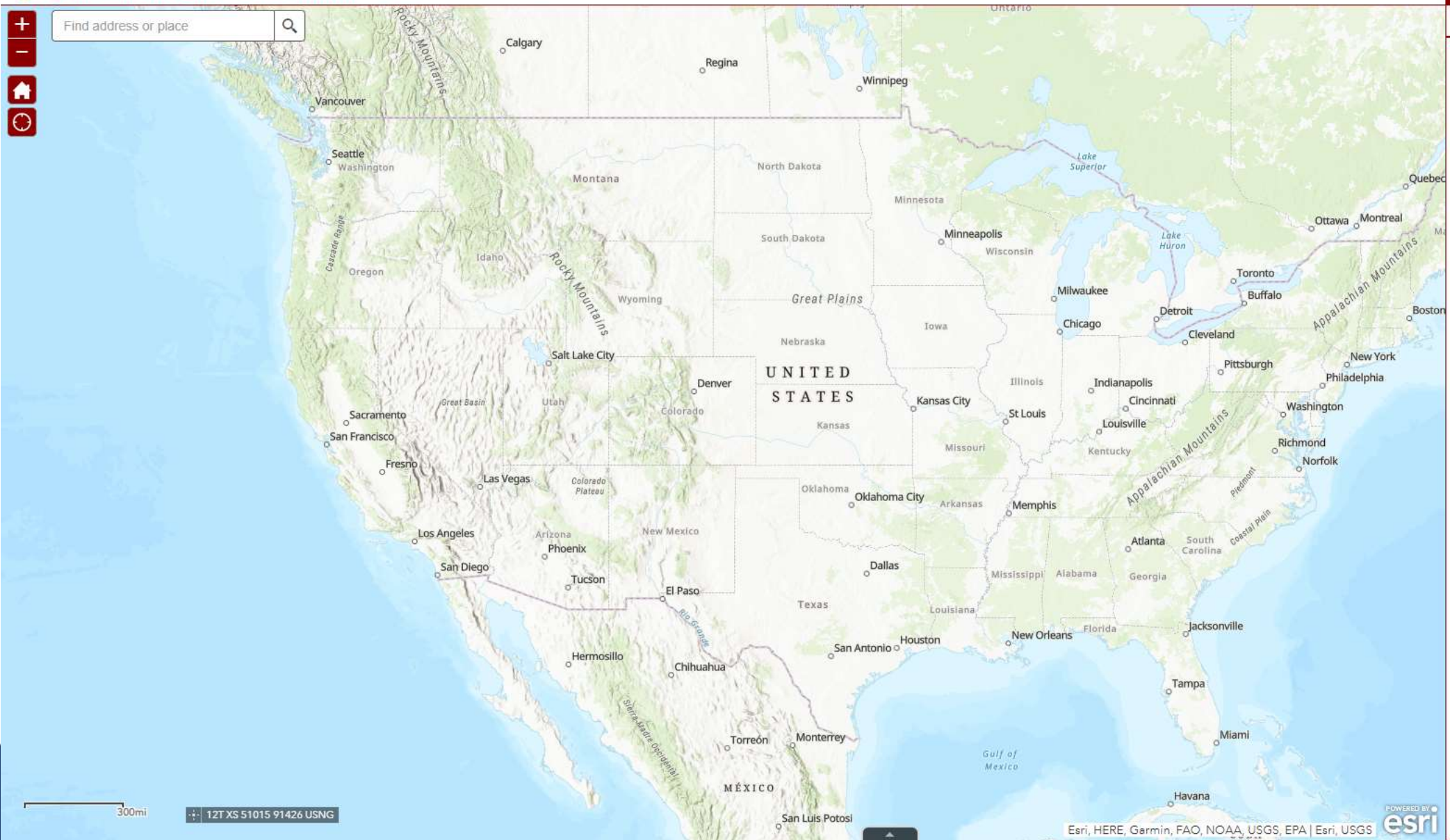
Evacuation Zone Pre-Planner

by IAFC Full Screen View



About

Instructions

This web mapping application features several "widgets" (tools) to help you create evacuation zones to aid the public in the event of an emergency.

Create Evacuation Zones Workflow

Creating custom evacuation zones for pre-planning purposes is straightforward:

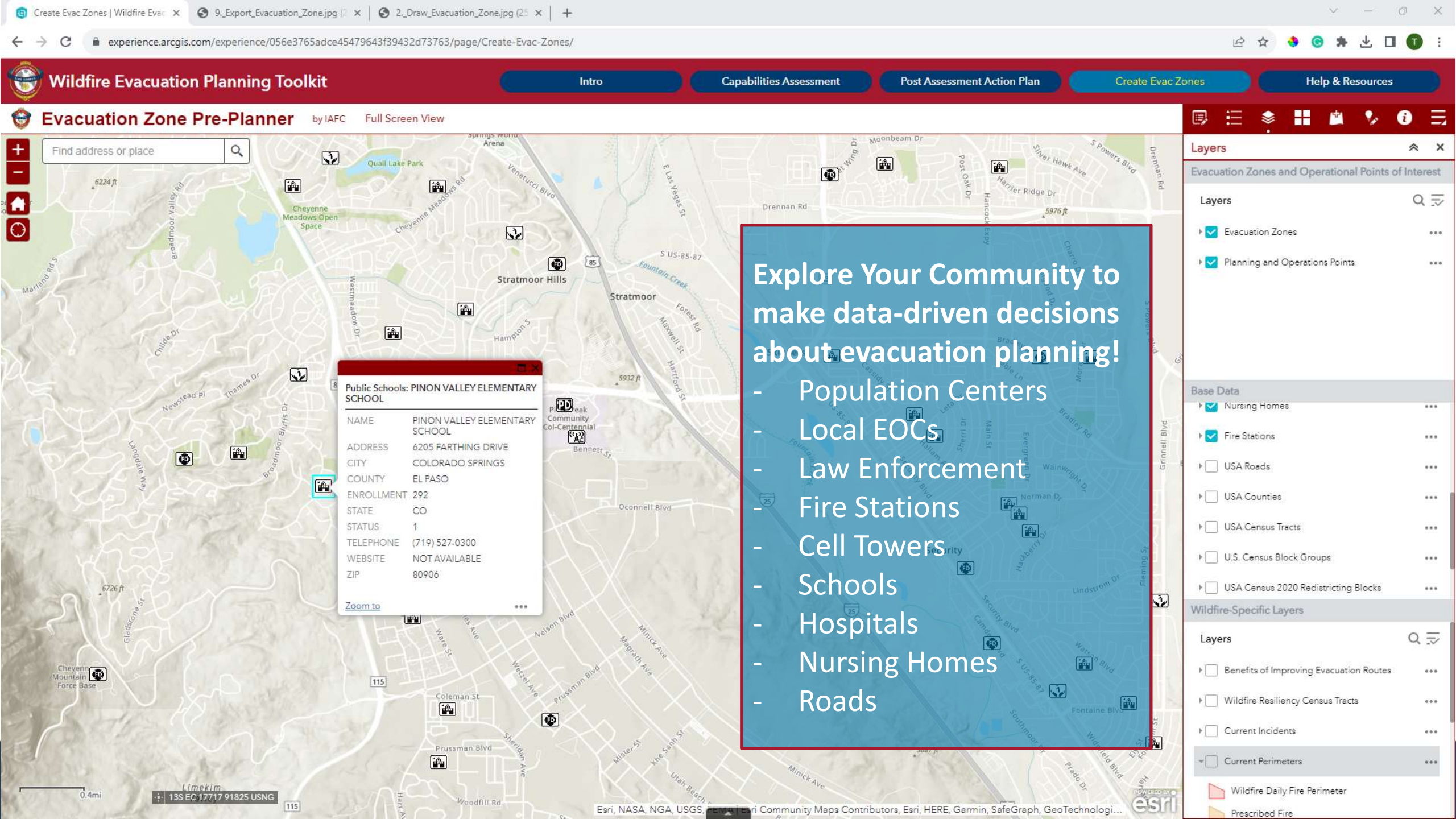
1. Click the **Create Evac Zones and Add Points** widget.
2. Select the Evacuation Zones new feature in the bottom pane.
3. Click on the map to start drawing a polygon shape, each click is a corner of the shape. **Double click** on final corner to complete the polygon.
4. Add **applicable information** on the right side pane within the empty text boxes. Be descriptive but concise.
5. Click **Save** at the bottom.

Follow the same steps above to place a **Point of Interest**, one click will place the point.

Export Data Workflow

The common operating workflow for creating exported **Shapefiles, KMLs, CSVs** and more within this webapp proceeds as follows:

1. Use the **Create Evac Zones and Add Points** widget to add points of interest and draw custom evacuation zones particular to your efforts. Fill in all applicable information on the side to annotate the features.
2. Use the **Filter** and **Select** widgets to pare down the evacuation zones to the ones you wish to export outside the


Create Evac Zones | Wildfire Evac
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Full Screen View
Find address or place
Public Schools: PINON VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
NAME PINON VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ADDRESS 6205 FARTHING DRIVE
CITY COLORADO SPRINGS
COUNTY EL PASO
ENROLLMENT 292
STATE CO
STATUS 1
TELEPHONE (719) 527-0300
WEBSITE NOT AVAILABLE
ZIP 80906
Zoom to
Explore Your Community to make data-driven decisions about evacuation planning!
- Population Centers
- Local EOCs
- Law Enforcement
- Fire Stations
- Cell Towers
- Schools
- Hospitals
- Nursing Homes
- Roads
Layers
Evacuation Zones and Operational Points of Interest
Layers
Evacuation Zones
Planning and Operations Points
Base Data
Nursing Homes
Fire Stations
USA Roads
USA Counties
USA Census Tracts
U.S. Census Block Groups
USA Census 2020 Redistricting Blocks
Wildfire-Specific Layers
Layers
Benefits of Improving Evacuation Routes
Wildfire Resiliency Census Tracts
Current Incidents
Current Perimeters
Wildfire Daily Fire Perimeter
Prescribed Fire
Quail Lake Park
Cheyenne Meadows Open Space
Stratmoor Hills
Stratmoor
Pikes Peak Community Col-Centennial
Cheyenne Mountain Force Base
Limekim
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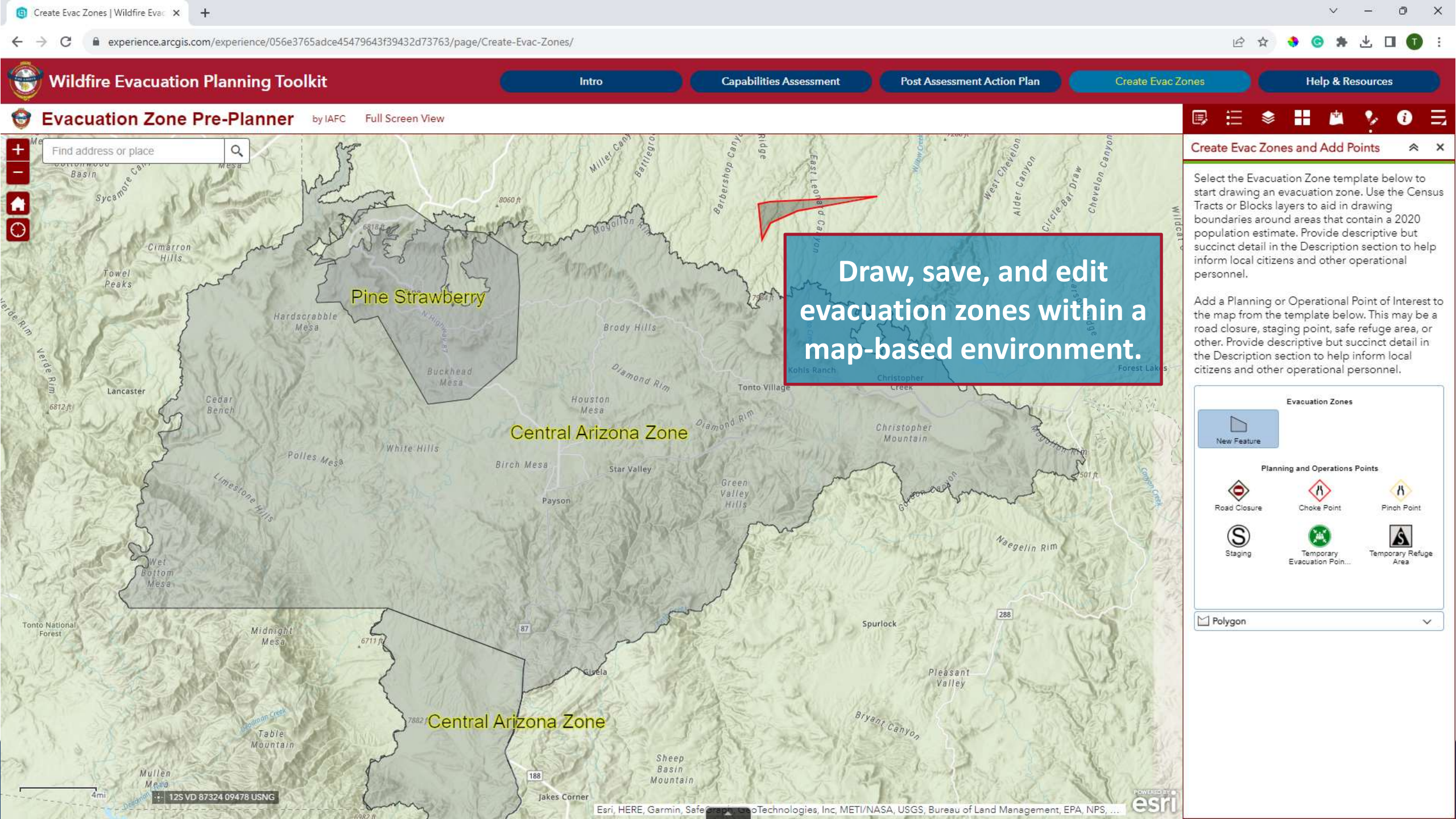
Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA | Esri Community Maps Contributors, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologi...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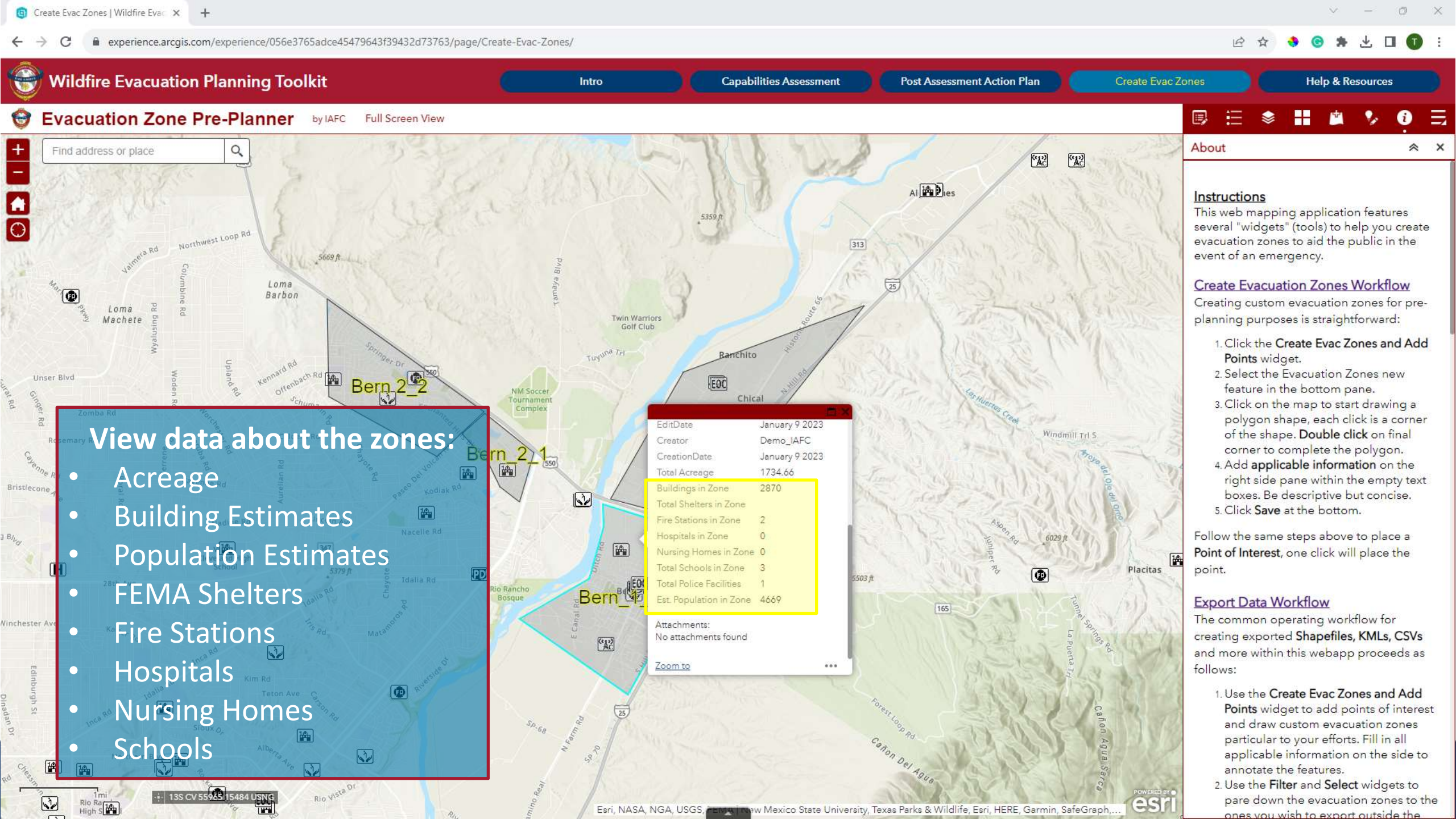
Help & Resources
Evacuation Zone Pre-Planner
by IAFC
Full Screen View
Find address or place
Pine Strawberry
Central Arizona Zone
Central Arizona Zone
Draw, save, and edit evacuation zones within a map-based environment.
Create Evac Zones and Add Points
Select the Evacuation Zone template below to start drawing an evacuation zone. Use the Census Tracts or Blocks layers to aid in drawing boundaries around areas that contain a 2020 population estimate. Provide descriptive but succinct detail in the Description section to help inform local citizens and other operational personnel.
Add a Planning or Operational Point of Interest to the map from the template below. This may be a road closure, staging point, safe refuge area, or other. Provide descriptive but succinct detail in the Description section to help inform local citizens and other operational personnel.
Evacuation Zones
New Feature
Planning and Operations Points
Road Closure
Choke Point
Pinch Point
Staging
Temporary Evacuation Poin...
Temporary Refuge Area
Polygon
Lancaster
Tonto Village
Star Valley
Payson
Spurlock
Jakes Corner
Tonto National Forest
12S VD 87324 09478 USNG
Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, ...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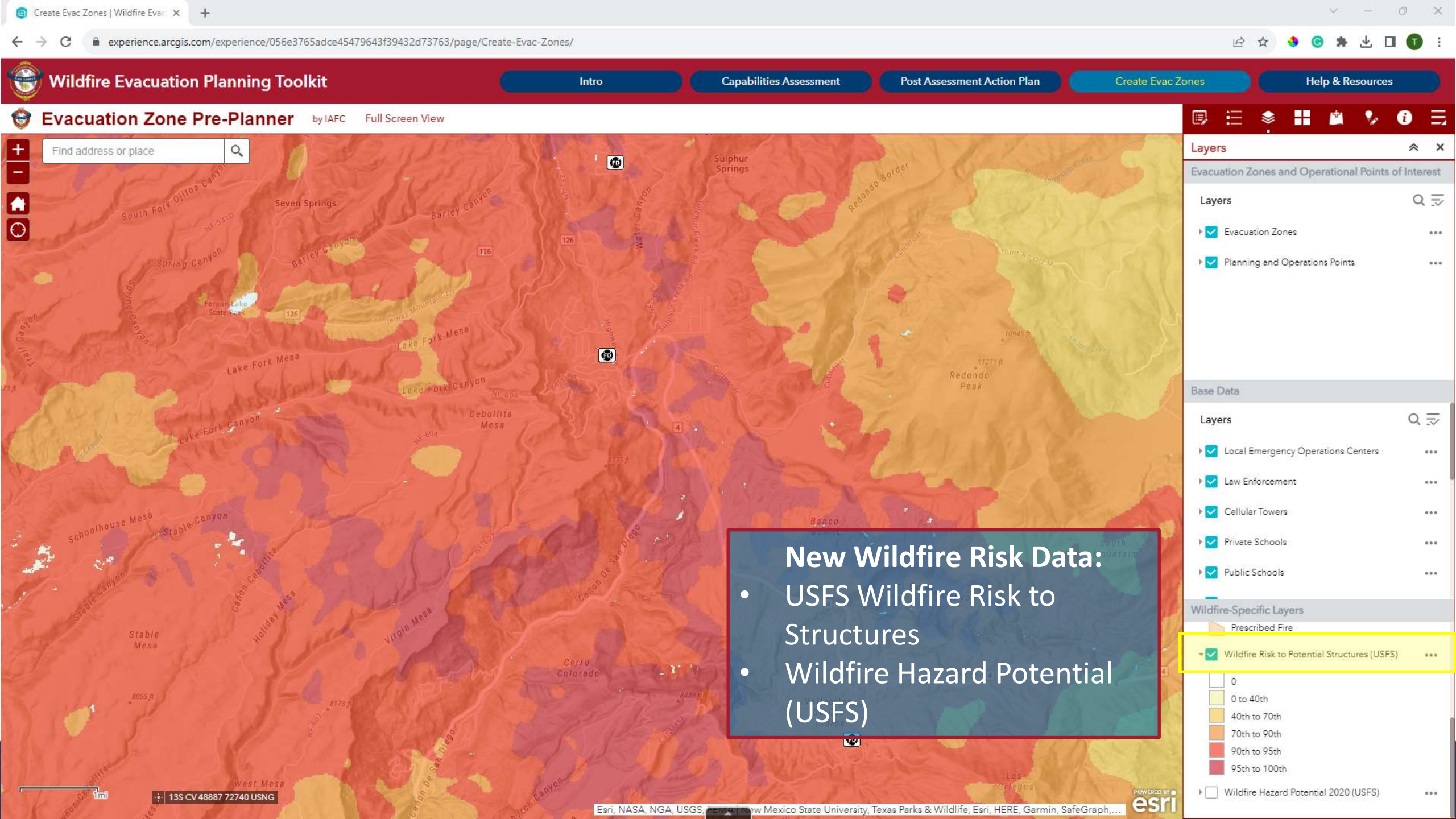
Bern_2_2
Bern_2_1
Bern_1_
EditDate January 9 2023
Creator Demo_IAFC
CreationDate January 9 2023
Total Acreage 1734.66
Buildings in Zone 2870
Total Shelters in Zone
Fire Stations in Zone 2
Hospitals in Zone 0
Nursing Homes in Zone 0
Total Schools in Zone 3
Total Police Facilities 1
Est. Population in Zone 4669
Attachments:
No attachments found
Zoom to
View data about the zones:
• Acreage
• Building Estimates
• Population Estimates
• FEMA Shelters
• Fire Stations
• Hospitals
• Nursing Homes
• Schools
Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA | New Mexico State University, Texas Parks & Wildlife, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph,...
esri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Local Emergency Operations Centers
Law Enforcement
Cellular Towers
Private Schools
Public Schools
Wildfire-Specific Layers
Prescribed Fire
Wildfire Risk to Potential Structures (USFS)
0
0 to 40th
40th to 70th
70th to 90th
90th to 95th
95th to 100th
Wildfire Hazard Potential 2020 (USFS)
New Wildfire Risk Data:
• USFS Wildfire Risk to Structures
• Wildfire Hazard Potential (USFS)
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Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA, New Mexico State University, Texas Parks & Wildlife, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph,...
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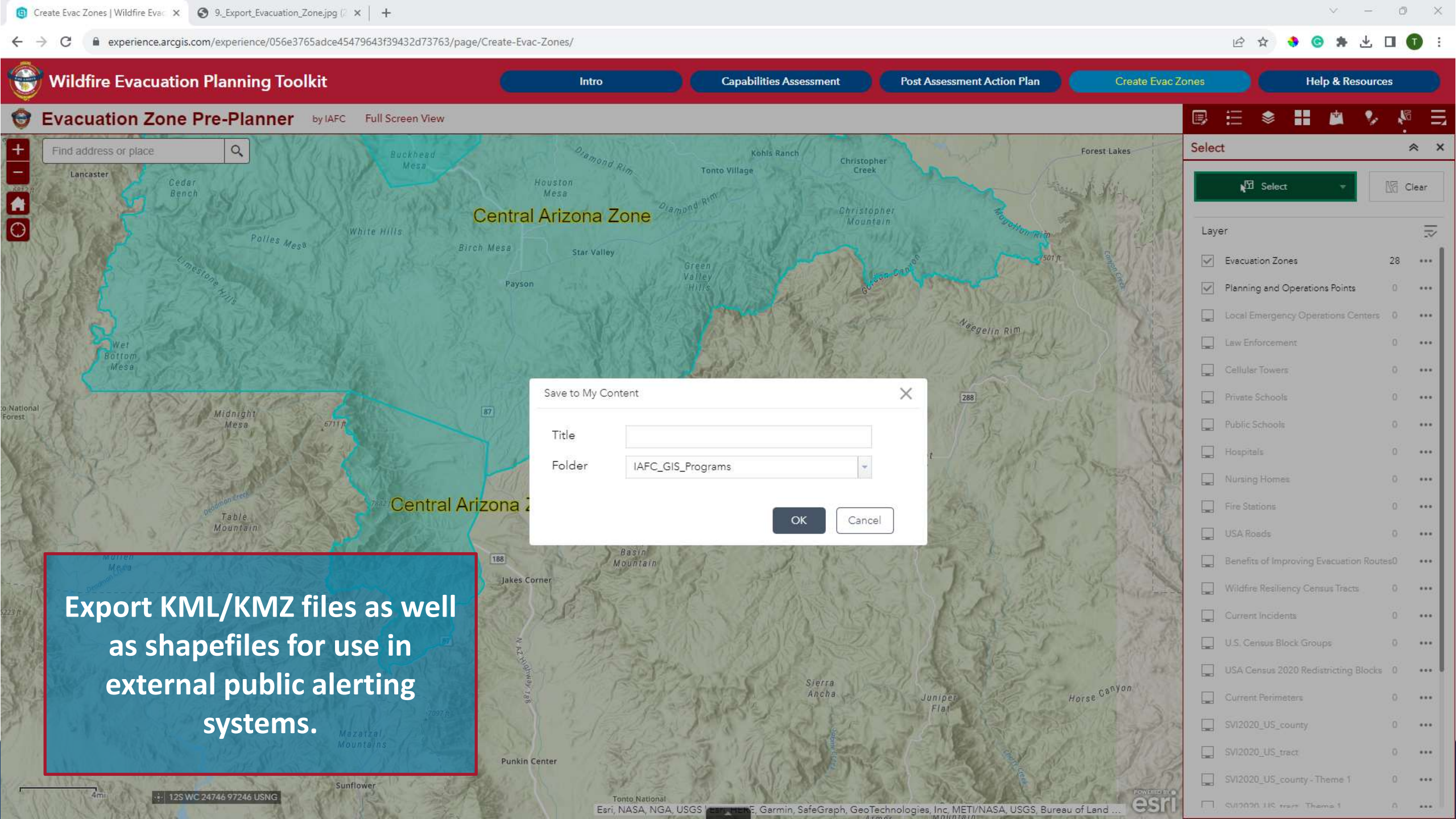
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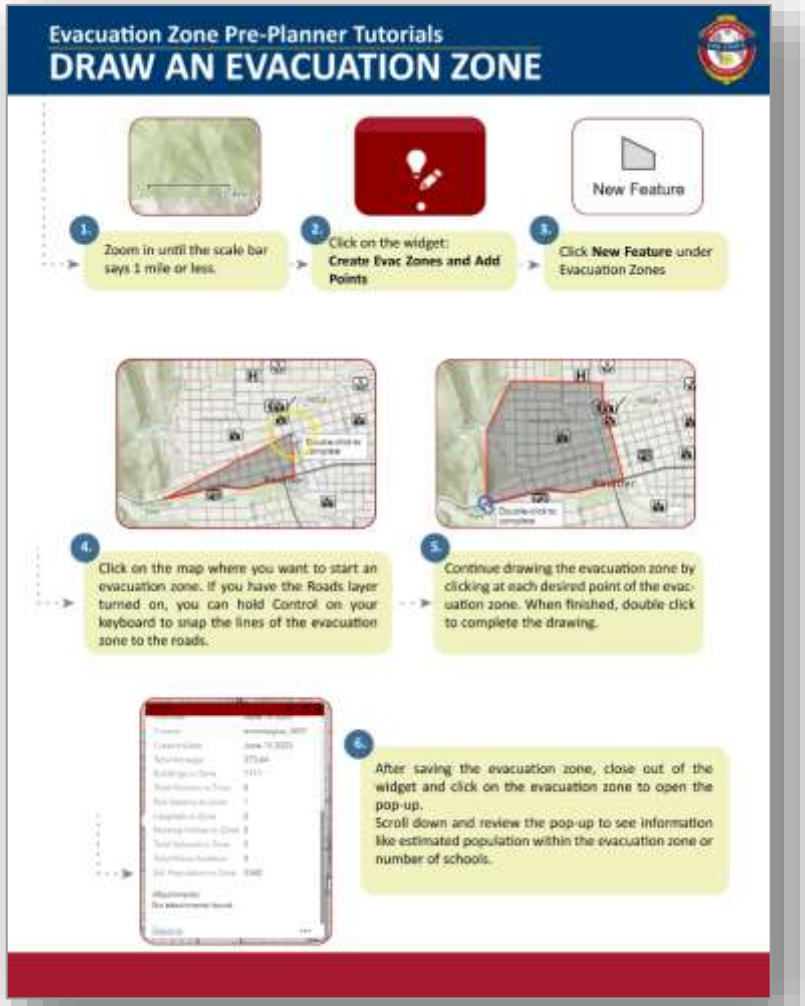
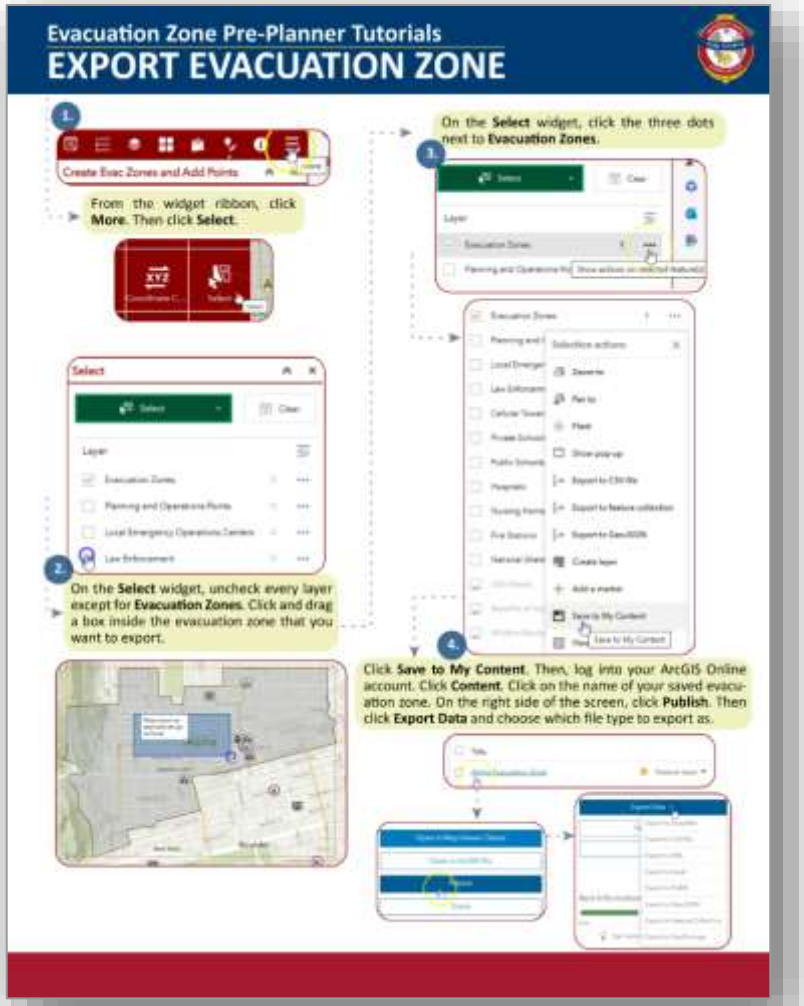
Central Arizona Zone
Central Arizona Z
Save to My Content
Title
Folder
IAFC_GIS_Programs
OK
Cancel
Select
Select
Clear
Layer
Evacuation Zones 28
Planning and Operations Points 0
Local Emergency Operations Centers 0
Law Enforcement 0
Cellular Towers 0
Private Schools 0
Public Schools 0
Hospitals 0
Nursing Homes 0
Fire Stations 0
USA Roads 0
Benefits of Improving Evacuation Routes 0
Wildfire Resiliency Census Tracts 0
Current Incidents 0
U.S. Census Block Groups 0
USA Census 2020 Redistricting Blocks 0
Current Perimeters 0
SVI2020_US_county 0
SVI2020_US_tract 0
SVI2020_US_county - Theme 1 0
Export KML/KMZ files as well as shapefiles for use in external public alerting systems.
Lancaster
Cedar Bench
Buckhead Mesa
Diamond Rim
Houston Mesa
Kohls Ranch
Tonto Village
Christopher Creek
Forest Lakes
Christopher Mountain
Mogollon Rim
White Hills
Polles Mesa
Birch Mesa
Star Valley
Payson
Green Valley Hills
Limestone Hills
Gordon Canyon
Naegelin Rim
Wet Bottom Mesa
Midnight Mesa
Table Mountain
Basin Mountain
Jakes Corner
Sierra Ancha
Juniper Flat
Horse Canyon
Mazatzal Mountains
Punkin Center
Sunflower
Tonto National
12S WC 24746 97246 USNG
Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land ...
esri





- ✓ Draw an Evacuation Zone Guide
- ✓ View Information (Data) Guide
- ✓ Add Information (Data) Guide
- ✓ Copy Features Guide
- ✓ Edit Evacuation Zone Guide
- ✓ Export Evacuation Zone Guide
- ✓ Cut One Evacuation Zone into Two Guide
- ✓ Combine Two Evacuation Zones into One Guide
- ✓ Reshape Evacuation Guide

One-Pager Help Guides

Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment & Retention

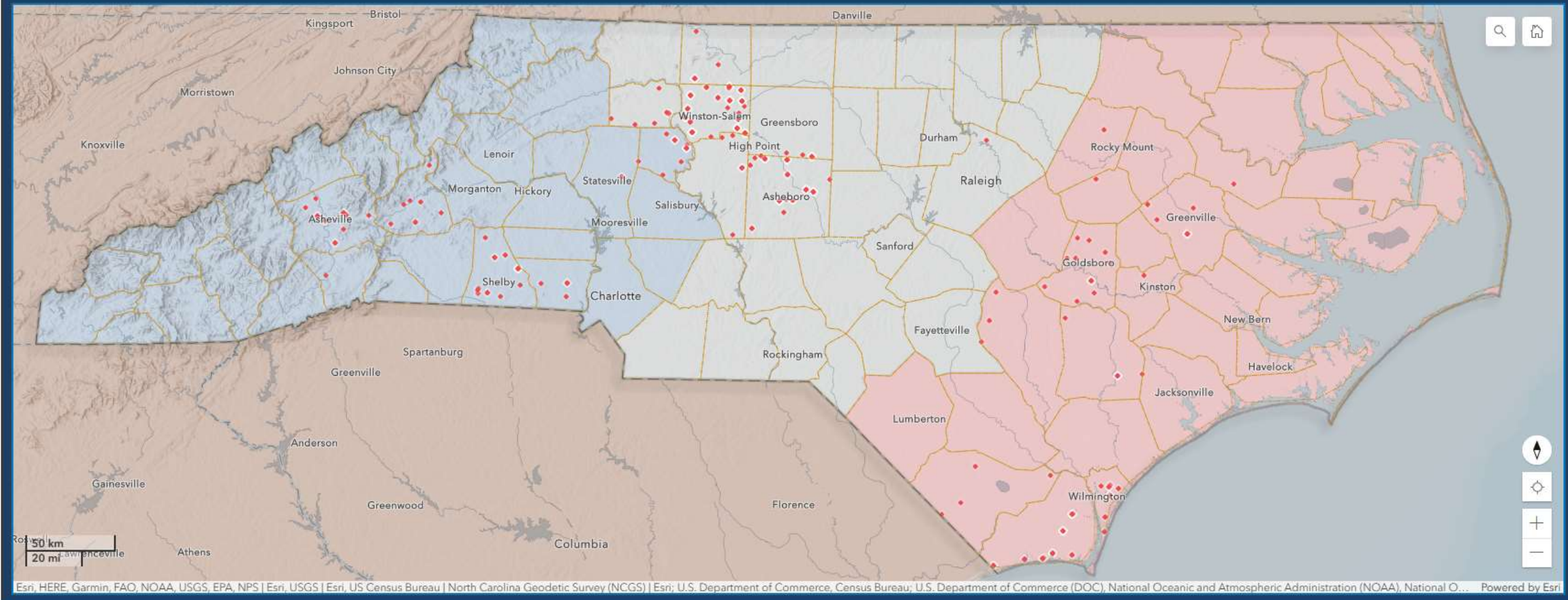
- More and more CFDs are losing firefighters and they are not being replaced.
- The pool for candidates is changing.
- We have not provided tools to identify those changes and how to find the new candidates.

North Carolina Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment & Retention

2023 SAFER Grant Survey Results

Select a Region	Select a County	Select a Department	Select a Date
All Regions	All Counties	All Departments	No date selected

Total Survey Submissions	Number of Departments with Survey Submissions	Select a Region to see number of submissions	Select a County to see number of submissions	Select a Department to see number of submissions
516	99	Selection required on one or more elements	Selection required on one or more elements	Selection required on one or more elements



Map | Life Stage | Characteristics, Hobbies, & Entertainment | Initial Motivations | Current Motivations | Who's Missing?

North Carolina Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment & Retention

2023 SAFER Grant Survey Results

Select a Region
Piedmont

Select a County
FORSYTH

Select a Department
All Departments

Select a Date
No date selected

Total Survey Submissions
516

Number of Departments with Survey Submissions
99

Select a Region to see number of submissions
292

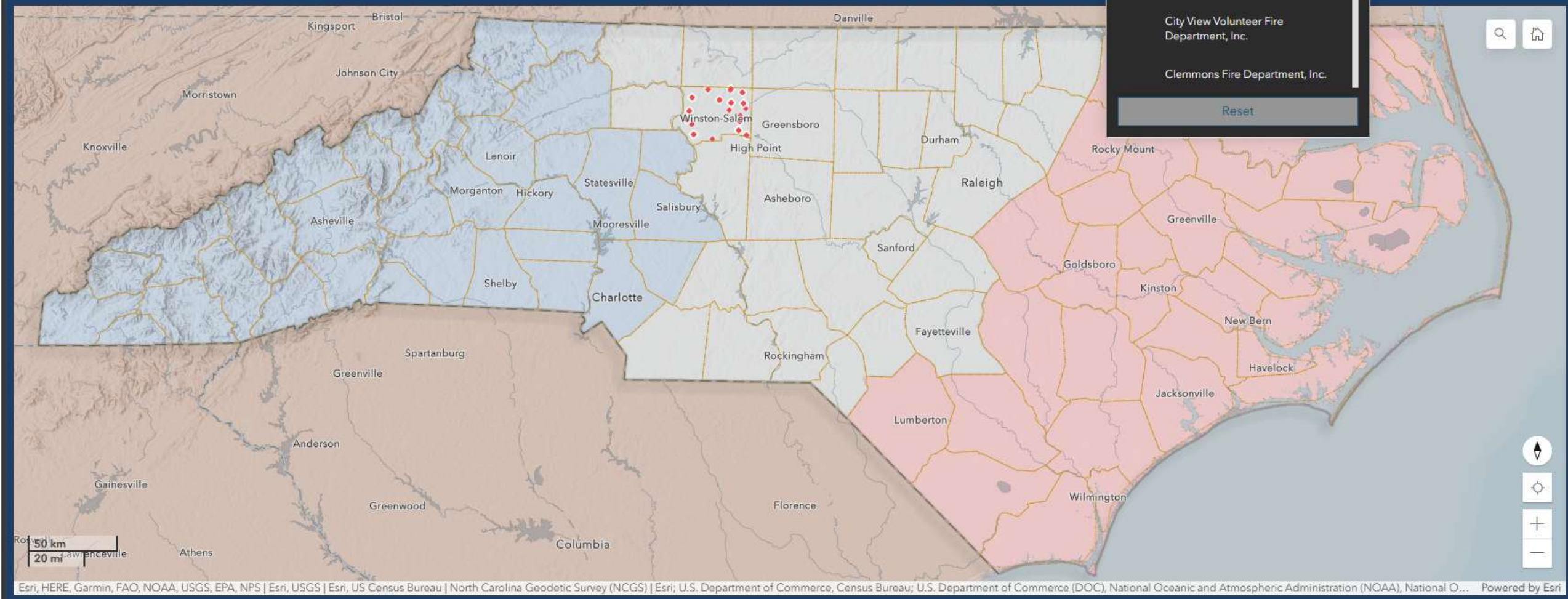
Select a County to see r
14

artment to see number of submissions

ired on one or more elements

- All Departments
- Beeson Crossroads Volunteer Fire & Rescue, Inc.
- Belews Creek Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department, Inc.
- City View Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.
- Clemmons Fire Department, Inc.

Reset



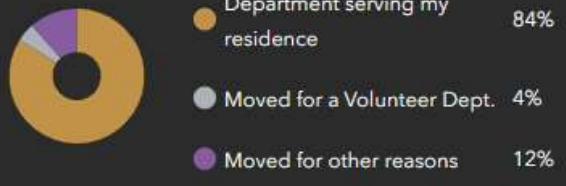
Map | Life Stage | Characteristics, Hobbies, & Entertainment | Initial Motivations | Current Motivations | Who's Missing?

Life Stage

2023 SAFER Grant Survey Results

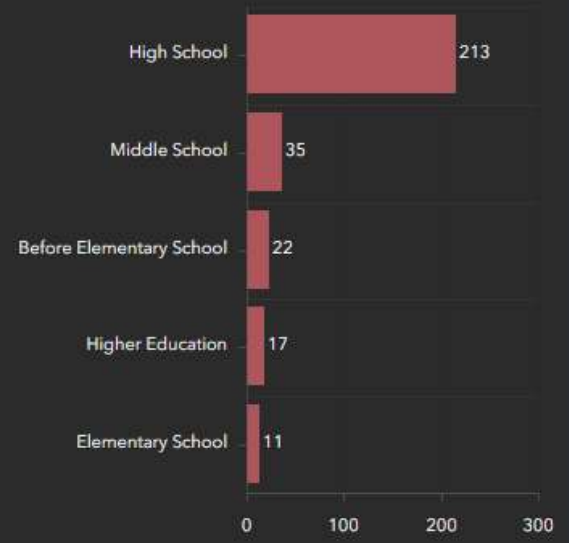
Select a Region: All Regions | Select a County: All Counties | Select a Department: All Departments

When you intially joined the fire service, did you join a department serving your residence or a department serving another districts?

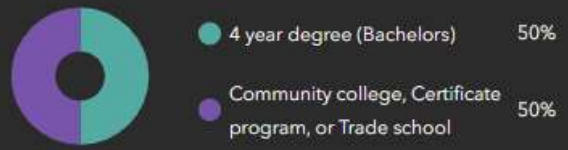


At which life stage did you initially become involved in the fire service?

Which stage of school best describes when you initially became involved in the fire service?



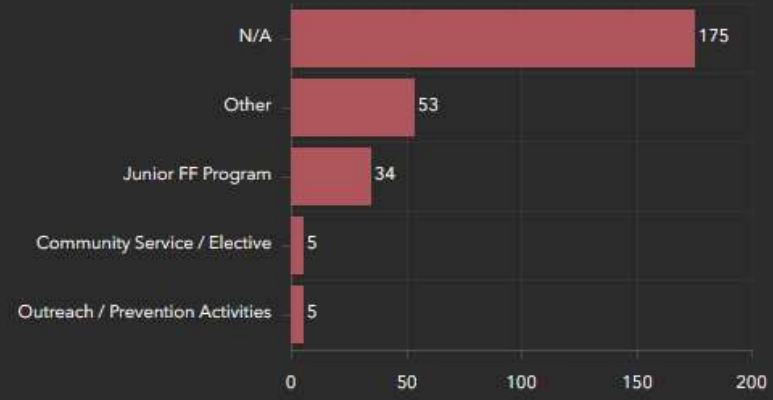
Which form of higher education best describes the type of degree you were pursuing when you joined the Fire Service?



Were you encouraged to join the fire service by a school counselor?

Did you become involved with the fire service because you were required to fulfill community service hours?

What did your school offer that encouraged you to join the fire service?

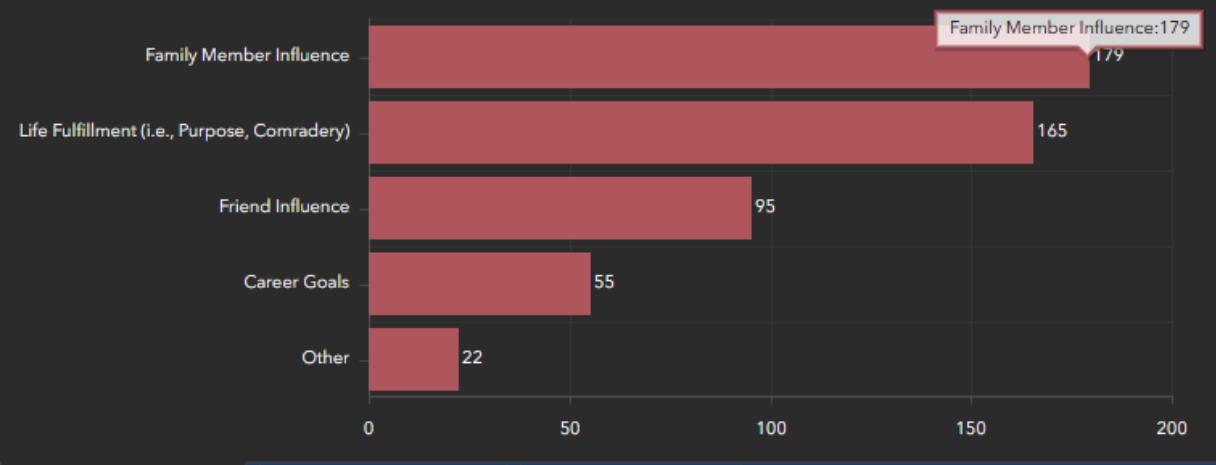


Initial Motivations for Volunteer Firefighting

2023 SAFER Grant Survey Results

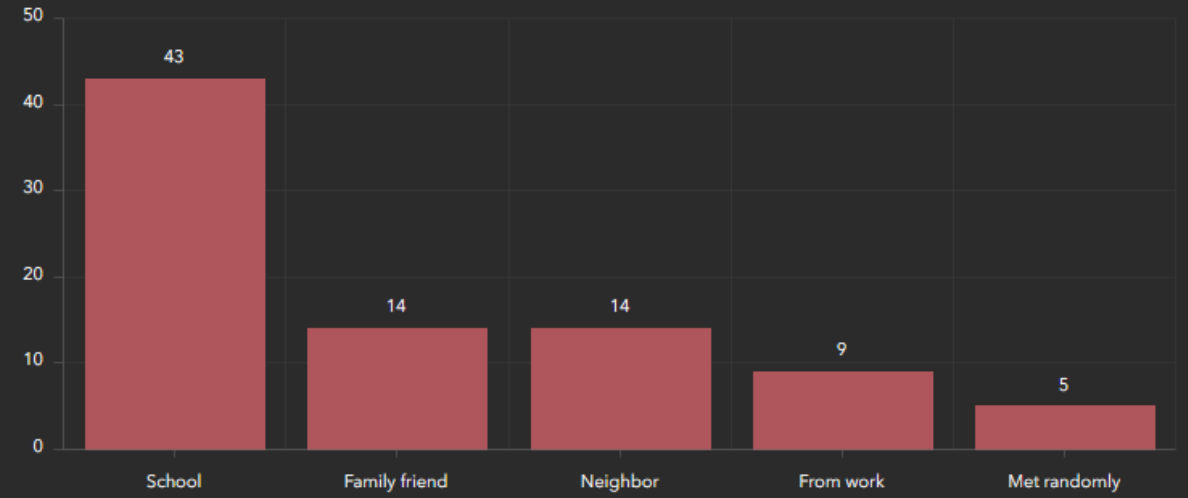
Select a Region: All Regions | Select a County: All Counties | Select a Department: All Departments

What was your initial motivation for joining the Fire Service?

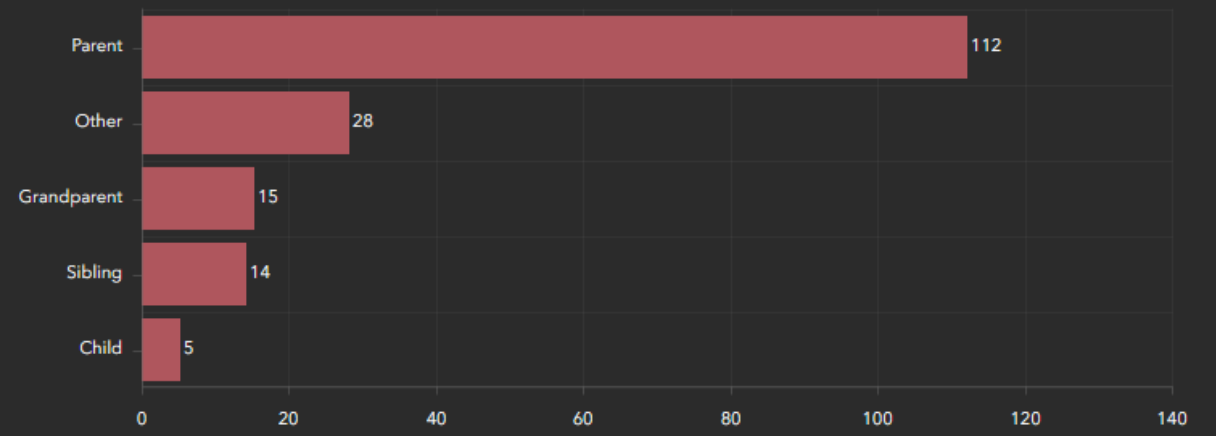


Primary Motivation | Second Motivation | Third Motivation

How did you meet the friend that motivated you to join the Fire Service?



Who was the family member that motivated you to join the Fire Service?



Family Member Influence | Family Member - Other Responses

Which career path was your primary motivation for joining the Fire Service?

Career Path Motivation | Initial Residence

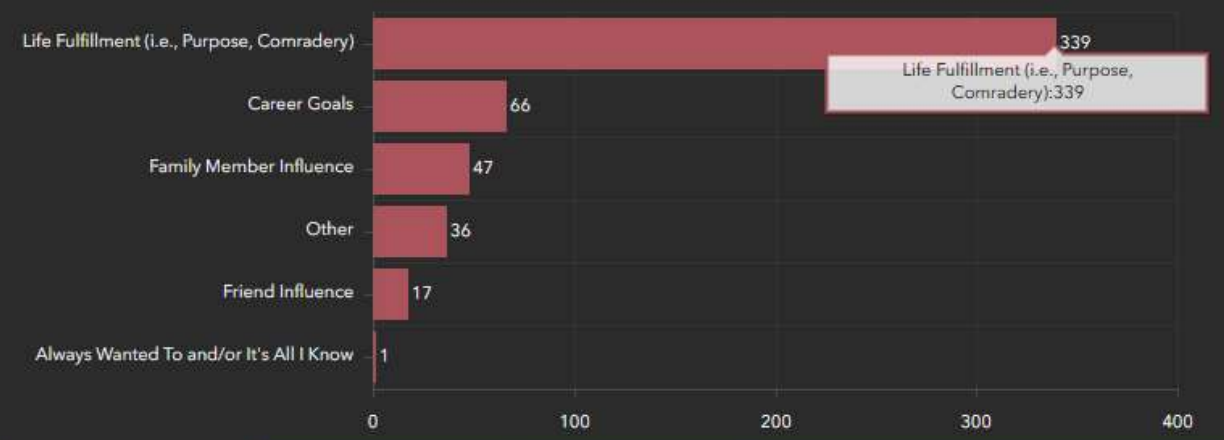
Map | Life Stage | Characteristics, Hobbies, & Entertainment | Initial Motivations | Current Motivations | Who's Missing?

Current Motivations for Volunteer Firefighting

2023 SAFER Grant Survey Results

Select a Region: All Regions | Select a County: All Counties | Select a Department: All Departments

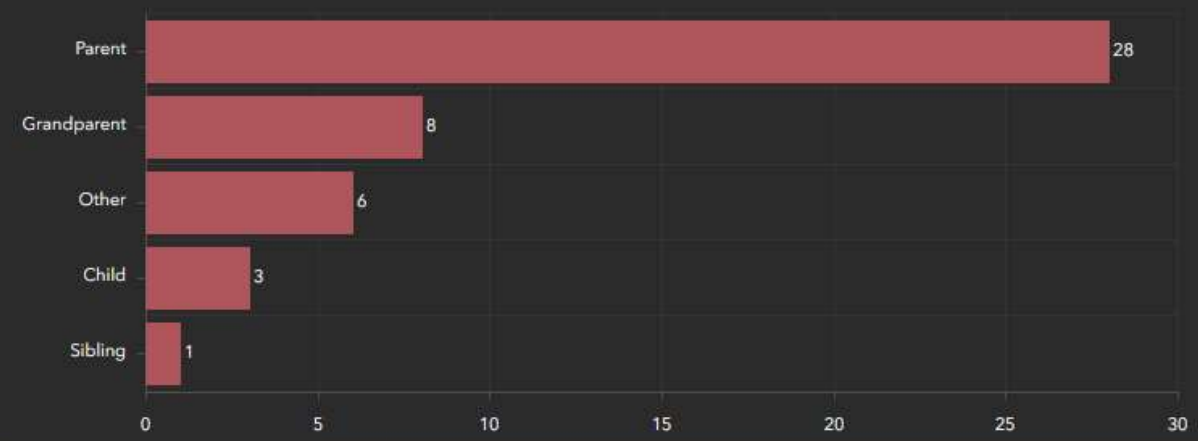
What is your primary motivation for continuing to be a Volunteer Firefighter?



Primary Motivation | Second Motivation | Third Motivation

How did you meet the friend that is your primary motivation for continuing to be a Volunteer Firefighter?

Who is the family member that is your primary motivation for continuing to be a Volunteer Firefighter?



Family Member Influence | Family Member - Other Responses

Which career path was your primary motivation for continuing to be a Volunteer Firefighter?

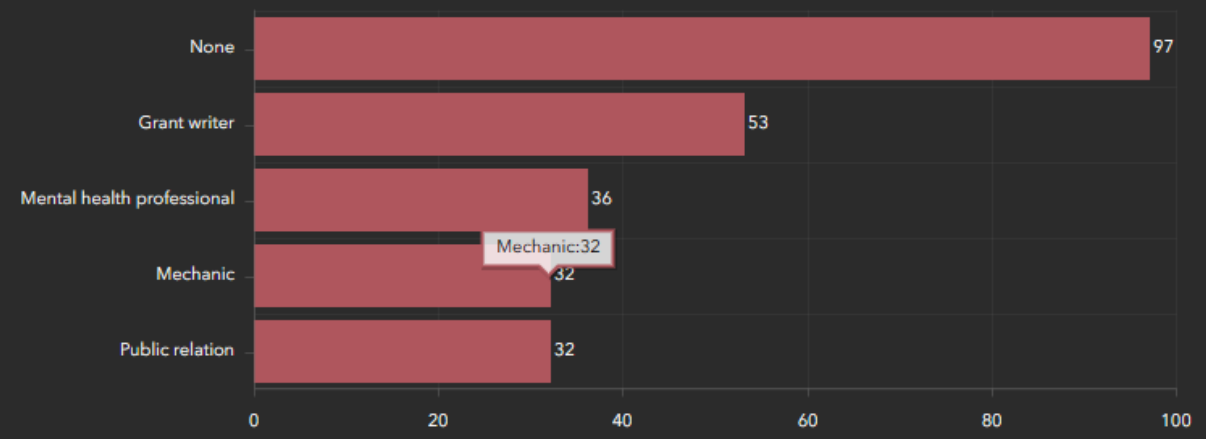
Map | Life Stage | Characteristics, Hobbies, & Entertainment | Initial Motivations | Current Motivations | Who's Missing?

Who's Missing From Your Department?

2023 SAFER Grant Survey Results

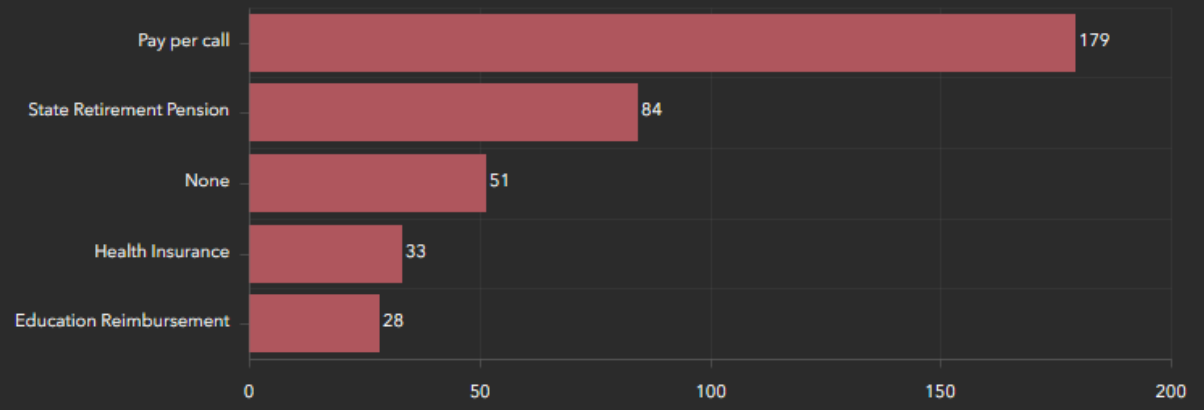
Select a Region: All Regions | Select a County: All Counties | Select a Department: All Departments

Which role do you see missing from your department and you think is the most important to add to your department?



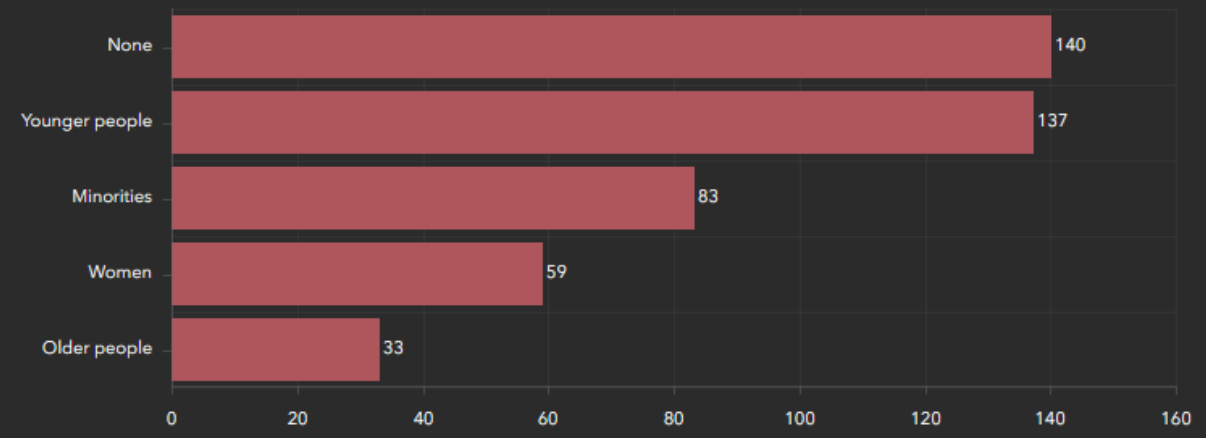
Missing Roles | Other Responses

Which benefit do you think would be the most effective incentive to improve recruitment and retention at your department?



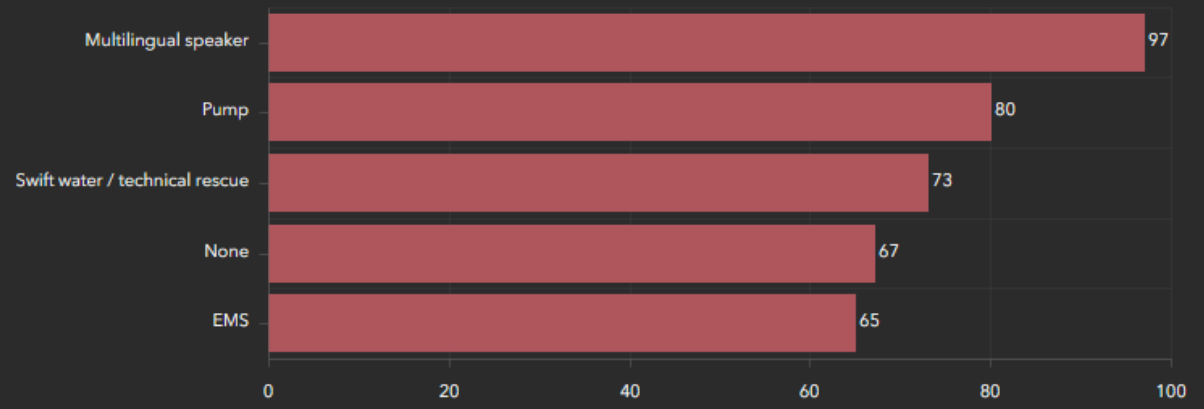
Most Effective Incentives | Other Responses

Who is the most underrepresented at your department but is present within your community?



Underrepresented People | Other Responses

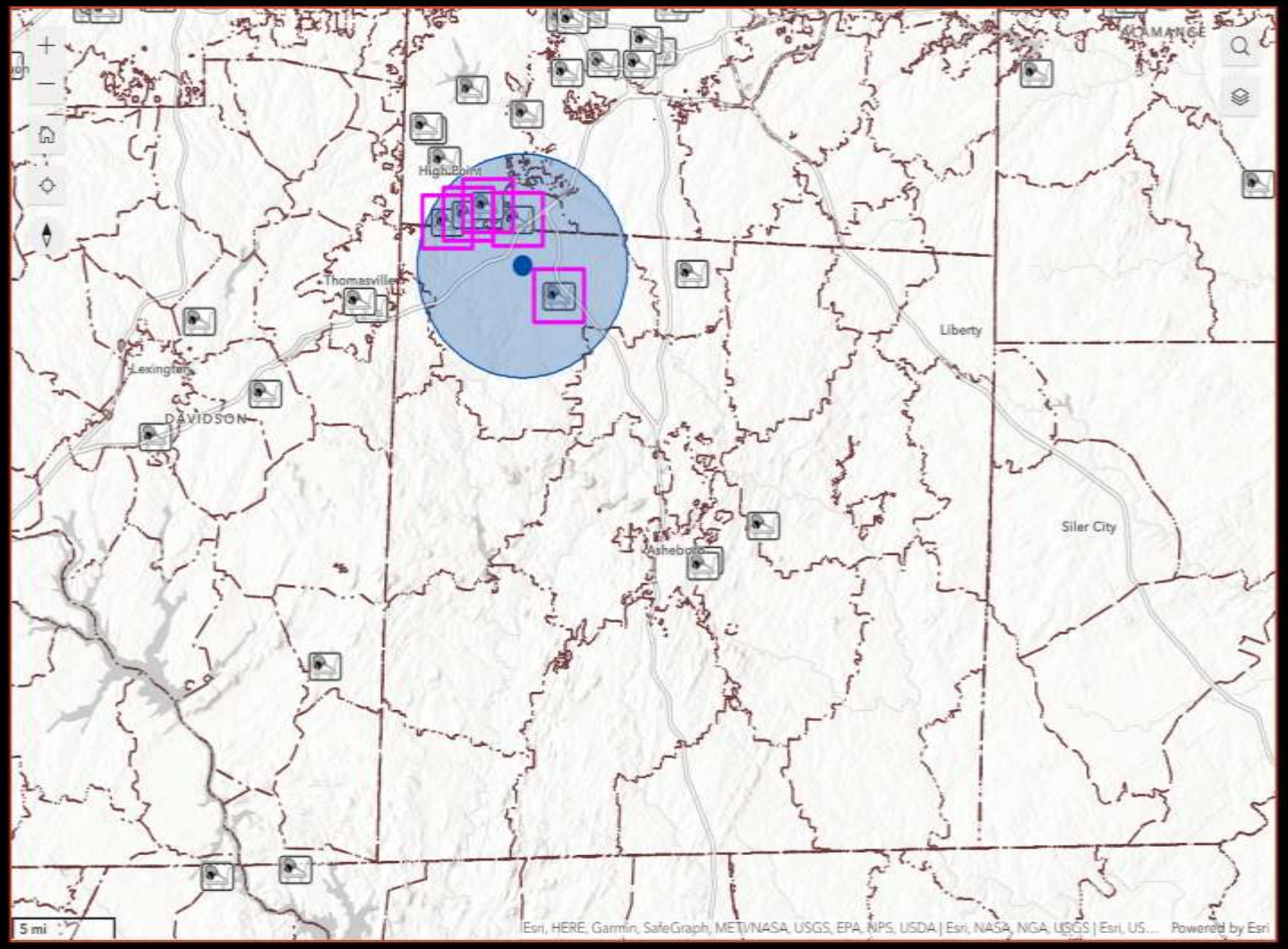
Which specific training do you think your department needs to recruit more people with expertise or train on the most?



Missing Training | Other Responses

Map | Life Stage | Characteristics, Hobbies, & Entertainment | Initial Motivations | Current Motivations | Who's Missing?

View 3: Recruitment Locations



Location

5 Miles

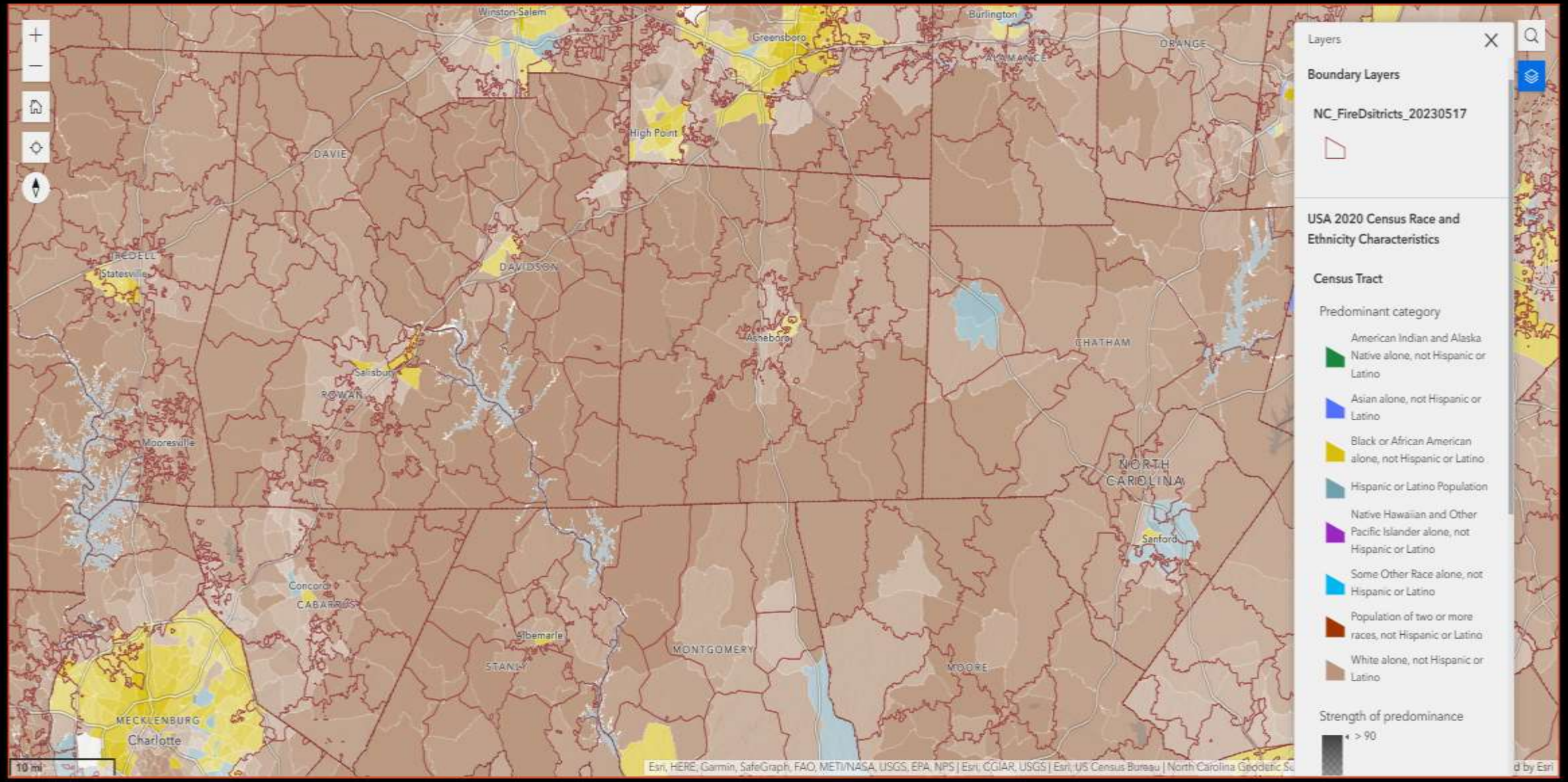
Closest Address

114-198 Lockhart St, High Point, North Carolina, 27263

Veteran and Military Organizations	1
Clubs	4
Public Schools	13
Trade and Vocational Schools	1
Sporting Goods Stores	5

Highland Golf of Archdale	2.09 mi
Race Daze Racing Apparel	2.2 mi
Team Connections Inc	3.16 mi
Hibbett Sports	3.45 mi
Fishing Fever Tackle	4.07 mi

View 4: Community Demographics & Recruitment



NC SAFER Recruitment Success Stories

Select A Location Type	Time of Day	Day of The Week
ALL	ALL	ALL

Gyms
Day Time, Week Day

Success: I showed up

Hunting Stores
Night Time, Weekend

Success: It was great

Camp Grounds
Day Time, Holiday

Success: Used Smokey the bear

Schools
Day Time, Week Day

Success: Had hot dogs

Camp Grounds

What Would You Do Different Next Time?

Gyms

Advice to improve next time: Work out with the guys

Hunting Stores

Advice to improve next time: Give away Hunting lisences

Camp Grounds

Advice to improve next time: Get a cooling vest

Schools

Advice to improve next time: Make homemade Chilli

Camp Grounds

Advice to improve next time: Go with bear spray

Schools

Advice to improve next time: Take Candy for the kids

Gyms

Questions?

Jeff Dulin Strategic Advisor IAFC
jdulin@iafc.org

THANKS!

napsgfoundation.org

@napsgfoundation