

March 13, 2024 · Q&A One-Pager

Locating Justice – The Power of GIS in Law Enforcement

Question: What records management system (RMS) do you use and how do you integrate it with ArcGIS Portal?

Answer: (Matt) Santa Rosa Police uses Central Square. We have built a Data Warehouse to pull data from our RMS and standardize the data formats. Our Data Warehouse is hosted on-site and was custom-built by a programmer in collaboration with the Crime Analysts.

Answer: (Shelby) We use a custom RMS that has tables of data in a relational database. Our Data Warehouse is on-premise, but you could also use cloud servers.

Question: Are there examples of ArcGIS products that are used by Incident Management Teams?

Answer: (Kevin/Jared) ArcGIS Solutions has a lot of ready to use resources that can be used by IMTs. Examples include https://www.esri.com/arcgis-blog/products/ops-dashboard/decision-support/dashboards-for-emergency-response/. You can get information about wildfire events from NIFC at https://nifc.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html, and NAPSG supports the Search and Rescue Common Operating Platform (SARCOP) – https://nsargc.napsgfoundation.org/pages/getting-started-with-sarcop.

Question: How do you navigate ethical issues around crime mapping and predictive policing?

Answer: (Matt) It is important to note that we are not doing a predictive policing model. We are very careful at our agency and conduct bias training. We have policies on how our officers behave and it is strictly governed. In California, there is a racial profiling initiative in which officers have to document what race they perceive on calls. Most importantly, the apps I covered today are focused on the victim of crimes and how we can help them, not on targeting specific neighborhoods.

Answer: (Shelby) Similar to Matt's response, our county is governed by a County Executive and Accounting Council, policies, and other strict processes we have to follow.

Question: Do you use GeoEvent Server and do you import live CAD data?

Answer: (Shelby) We don't actually have to use GeoEvent Server, we just have a live view. We do not have performance issues, but we are expanding our GIS infrastructure and going to explore GeoEvent Server because it is great if you have a lot of information coming in like automatic vehicle location (AVL) data.

Answer: (Matt) We do not use it.