

Workshop Summary

Subject GIS in Emergency Management workshop
When Friday 24 March 2006
Where Centra Airport Hotel, Manukau City
Today's date Thursday 13 April 2006

Attendees

John Gibson - Greater Wellington Regional Council
Gareth Evans - Environment Bay of Plenty
Helen Grant - Greater Wellington Regional Council
Ian Tidy - Napier City Council
Kevin Wilkie - Manukau City Council
Karl Majorhazi - New Zealand Fire Service
Fazeem Hussein - Auckland City Council
Nick Hardy - Auckland City Council
Gavin Treadgold - Kestrel Group
Bill Warren - New Zealand Navy
Kate Burns - Waitakere City Council
Dean Strachan - Department of Conservation (Rural Fire)
Trevor Mitchell - Department of Conservation (Rural Fire)
Brendan Morris - Environment Waikato
Roy Robinson - Auckland International Airport

Apologies from:

Phil Wall - Kapiti Coast District Council
Peter Wood - Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management
Christine Makumbe - Local Government New Zealand

Presentations

Background to workshop - John Gibson

Included summary of local government survey

Fire Service perspective - Karl Majorhazi

Included discussion of NZFS proof of concept for symbology in emergency management response and issues around it

Rural Fire mapping standards - Dean Strachan and Trevor Mitchell

Outlined a quick response mapping system for rural fire

GIS use during the 2004 Bay of Plenty floods - Gareth Evans

Outcomes

Funding

Brendan said that the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management, Local Government New Zealand and regional Civil Defence Emergency Management groups may be able to assist with funding to develop and print the guidelines.

Guidelines scope

There was a lot of debate re scope for the guidelines.

Trevor reminded the group that it is best to provide a good basic product to start with, rather than trying to provide too much. It was agreed that the scope should be kept small and achievable to start with.

Brendan stated that the manual will be primarily focused at GIS practitioners as a guide to how they can best help emergency managers. This involves local authorities, fire service and rural fire, health, police, and possibly agencies like the Ministry of Agriculture, lifeline utilities and the defence force.

We agreed that the guidelines should focus on the three Rs of readiness, response and recovery. There could be links to reduction but this would not be a focus.

Karl pointed out that the guidelines should be generic enough to not be incident specific or agency specific. Gavin agreed that they should be able to be used by anyone who needs to produce or use spatial information in an emergency.

Gavin suggested that the guidelines should outline who is responsible for, and what the process is for, collecting, managing and disseminating spatial information. Gareth agreed that the collection of data in the field (and its format) should be specified. The possibility of two parts to the guidelines

was raised - one outlining cartographic best practice and the other outlining data sharing and coordination.

It was agreed that we should perhaps concentrate on the guideline contents as that may help to define the scope.

Guidelines content

The guidelines content was grouped under three areas - emergency management principles, being prepared, and doing the job/deployment. We discussed realistic timeframes to start collating information and agreed that symbology is a priority. People volunteered to collate information on particular content areas (names are given in brackets).

Emergency management principles:

- context (including 4Rs)
- CIMS
- standard operating procedures
- workflow
- leadership and accountability (Fazeem)
- liability
- staffing (Gareth)
- competence (GIS skill level required)
- CDEM Group capacity and capability
- guiding principles for software licensing and data liability.

Being prepared:

- fundamental datasets (agreed with emergency manager(s)) (John)
- symbology (Gareth)
- templates (Kate)
- projections and coordinate definitions
- data formats
- metadata (Ian)
- data supply resources (incl air photo suppliers) (Gareth)
- data sharing agreements (particularly with lifelines) (Helen)
- GIS staff list and organisation list (staff sharing agreements) (Helen)
- training and exercises (Trevor).

Doing the job/deployment:

- data capture (GPS, etc) (Kevin)
- processes for sharing data during an emergency
- data dissemination
- metadata
- matching staff to tasks (Bill)
- task tracking (Bill)
- staff handovers
- debriefing
- backup and security, archiving, audit trails
- integration with emergency management software (RMD, Origen, etc).

Where to from here

Gavin will set up an email list on gis.org.nz.

We agreed that we will touch base by mid-June with findings on our topic areas. By this time we will also have a terms of reference and a formal project brief written up and will have investigated funding options (Brendan and John to lead this).

We also all agreed that the guidelines should be publicly available free of charge.

Helen Grant
Hazard Analyst
Greater Wellington Regional Council