



IAFC TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

Case Study: Governance

If I don't know you well enough to loan you my lawnmower, I'm sure as heck not going to share my secret data with you....
Anonymous Homeland Security Director



All Hazards Consortium

One of the challenges facing states is to find the time and resources required to form alliances with their neighboring states that result in ongoing discussions to support planning, training, and operational requirements. In addition, there is also a critical need for coordination with the private sector, education, and non-profit organizations. It is only when all stakeholders come together in ongoing discussions that true regional interoperability and coordination can be achieved. To achieve meaningful coordination and collaboration, a trust-based environment must be established. It is within this environment that the All Hazards Consortium (AHC) was formed in 2004.

The focus of the AHC is on supporting regional (e.g. multi-state) state/local government issues/priorities. The AHC is comprised of stakeholders from government, industry, higher education, and non-profit organizations. Geographically, the AHC is comprised of the states of North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, District of Columbia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York. The overarching goals of AHC are:

To create an appropriate environment for government, industry, universities and non-profits to share best practices, ideas and strategies, and to discuss issues and plans to improve regional coordination

To help identify, clarify and prioritize state/local government requirements for homeland security and emergency management initiatives

To provide education services through year round activities

To help stimulate regionally coordinated planning, programs and procurements

Since 2006, the AHC has facilitated several highly successful regional workshops: a Fusion workshop; a Public Safety Communications Interoperability Workshop, a Critical Infrastructure Protection Workshop; and a Catastrophic Event Preparedness Workshop; and most recently, a GIS workshop. Recognizing the unique integrative nature of GIS as a framework technology, the AHC Board has identified GIS as a strategic foundation issue for the consortium.

The AHC has identified evacuation planning as a first objective issue. Five primary factors will drive the discussions in the coming months: Better coordination of planning for transportation, fuel, food, water, shelters and medical mass care during an evacuation. Building upon the success of previous events, the AHC program office will now move forward to facilitate the creation of a workgroup to identify priority projects among stakeholders. The workgroup will review the outcomes of the GIS workshop and focus on prioritizing projects to bring together the resources for action.

Problem

Today's Homeland Security and Emergency Management problems increasingly require coordination across disciplines and jurisdictions. But without support to develop the trust and relationships necessary, it just doesn't happen.

Goals

- ◆ Improve regional coordination
- ◆ Identify priorities for homeland security and emergency management initiatives
- ◆ Provide education

Results

- ◆ Regional workshops, whitepapers and successful project proposals have been initiated on each of the five priority program areas.
- ◆ Workgroups have begun targeting priority projects.

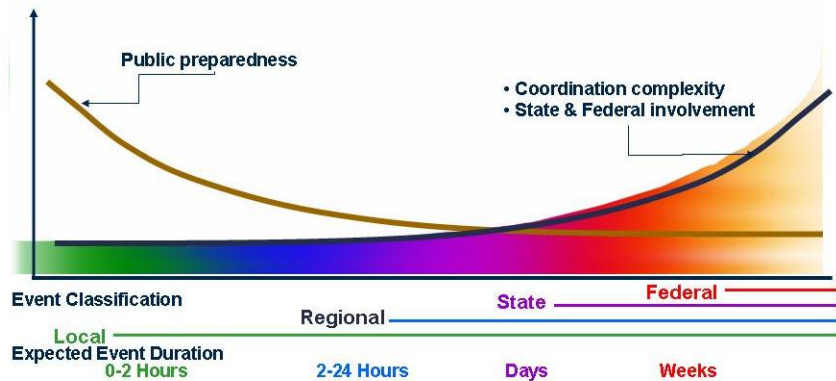
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Emergency Incident Preparedness Scale

As incidents escalate, public preparedness decreases and coordination complexity increases.

The All Hazards Consortium was born out of the recognition that all incidents start locally. Local public safety agencies across the country successfully handle thousands of emergency incidents every year.

But when these incidents escalate, coordination is required to manage resources across jurisdictional boundaries and government levels.

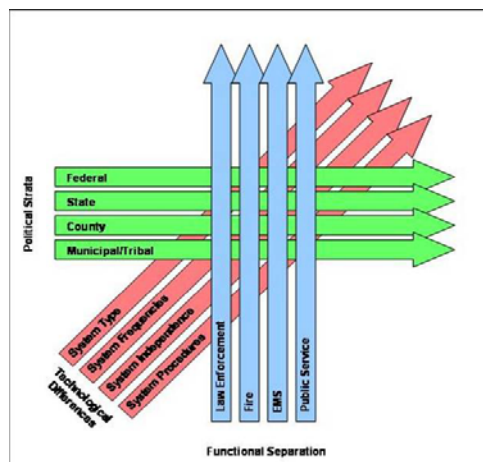
We know that collaboration is just plain hard. We also know that effective collaboration improves outcomes,

So the All Hazards Consortium was formed and is now helping to solve the collaboration challenge by creating effective partnership models.

Effective Coordination Requires More Than Good Technology

All incidents start local, and stay local. While other jurisdictions might become involved, up to and including Federal resources, there is a critical need for interoperable communications (both voice and data) across all jurisdictions and responders. When the scale of the event escalates, public preparedness decreases and coordination complexity increases. GIS is a key enabler of data sharing as it is important to know how that data relates spatially to the event itself.

That is where the All Hazards Consortium fits in. Through Workshops, Working Groups, and the development of white papers on critical topics; all from a multi state perspective, the AHC seeks to bring additional resources to bear on these topics



Barriers to effective geospatial data sharing to support public safety GIS

- ◆ political strata
- ◆ technological differences
- ◆ functional separation.

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