

### A SPATIAL CHALLENGE

When responding to catastrophic incidents, the [National Urban Search and Rescue](#) (US&R) mission engages with a multitude of inherently spatial problems. Yet the 28+ federal task forces that make up the National US&R Response System have not standardized a unified geospatial-based toolset to support their strategic or tactical decision making.

In 2021, the Surfside condominium collapse in Florida demonstrated the capabilities and utility of an incident-wide geospatial technology deployment. While multiple after-action reports have captured the general requirements, investments in research and development are required to complete the creation and deployment of a US&R-specific technology solution.

### A GEOSPATIAL SOLUTION

The National Alliance for Public Safety GIS (NAPSG) Foundation, in close collaboration with the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and federal and state US&R teams, will conduct the research required to define the critical US&R requirements for inclusion into the Search and Rescue Common Operating Platform (SARCOP) and document any barriers to acceptance of new technology within this unique professional and volunteer workforce.

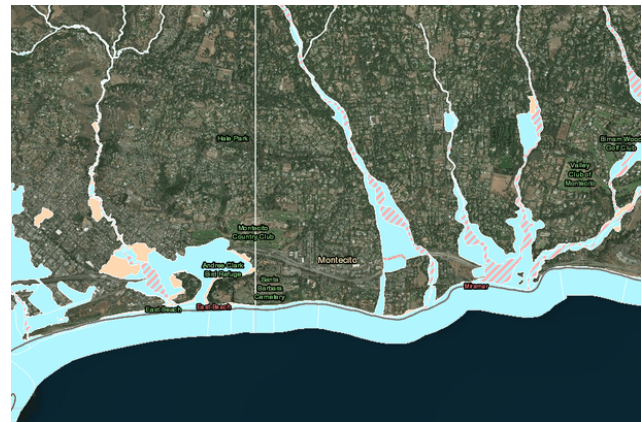
Through the prototype development of SARCOP, the US&R community will have the opportunity to define requirements for system development, participate in focused operational experiments, refine the system, and test it within the existing FEMA exercise series.

### PROJECT IMPACT

- In the past, the US&R program has not utilized a single toolset to support full incident tracking of their efforts and resources.
- The development of SARCOP V9 provides a complete operational management tool for all US&R task forces, providing a more effective response in locating and rescuing victims and managing the overall US&R mission.



U.S. Coast Guard servicemen assisting flood victims.



FEMA Flood Map of Montecito, California

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Formalization of the National Search and Rescue Geospatial Coordinating Group
- Development of initial SARCOP Training Modules with real world incident feedback

### UPCOMING MILESTONES

- Annual Synchronous Tabletop Exercise After Action Report (Q4 FY23)
- SARCOP V9 Hubsite Development (Q1 FY24)
- Rapid Structure Triage Quick Capture Project (Q1 FY24)

### PERFORMERS/PARTNERS

- NAPSG Foundation, Washington, DC
- FEMA, Washington, DC