



Forsyth County Fire Department

17 April 2009 Friday

To whom it may concern,

Please accept this correspondence as a letter of commendation for the Forsyth County, Georgia Department of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and their development of the GIS Mobile Emergency Response System. This system has proven invaluable to the field operations for the Forsyth County Fire Department and has come to be known by our command staff as a system that they can rely on for factual and detailed geographic data.

The GIS Emergency Response Staff of John Kilgore, Michael Hoff, Allan Hoerle, and Jason Clemis have worked diligently to build this system "from the ground up" with the end result being a piece of technology that was, until recently, unheard of and unaffordable for the nation's fire service. Now, with the implementation of the GIS Mobile Emergency Response System Forsyth County firefighters have crucial data available during large scale incidents that allow them to work more efficiently and safely. Beyond the safety factor, GIS data is used to coordinate resources and prepare operations in a manner that is cost effective. The system has proven its value in many settings to include conflagrations, wildland/urban interface fires, hazardous materials releases, storm damage assessment, flooding, mutual aid, cost damage estimation, and insurance services studies.

Without the aid of the Forsyth County GIS Mobile Emergency Response System our large scale incident maneuvers would not be nearly as efficient and safe as they are now. It has become an integral component of our field operations and is now relied upon by not only Forsyth County fire personnel but our neighboring mutual aid jurisdictions. The Forsyth County Fire Department is very grateful and, quite frankly, very impressed by the endeavors of the Forsyth County GIS team and their knowledge in the arena of the value that GIS technology lends to the fire service. It is my hope that this letter serves to impress upon the reader the extreme value that the Forsyth County Department of GIS and the Mobile Emergency Response System has brought to our fire department operations. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Danny D. Bowman
Chief of Department
Director of Emergency Management

