



FORSYTH COUNTY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY



“Preparedness to Recovery”

April 26, 2009

To whom it may concern,

Please accept this letter of support/recommendation for the Forsyth County GIS Mobile Emergency Response System (ERS). From the moment I first utilized the GIS Mobile ERS they have provided the Forsyth County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) with timely verifiable information from multiple sources that has enabled EMA to make critical decisions ensuring the most positive effects on our citizens.

My first experience was in the first quarter of 2009 as Forsyth County experienced a widespread flood event: The Forsyth County Mobile GIS ERS enabled the Emergency Operations Center and EMA to keep a current map of locations affected with information from multiple agencies integrated into one master map and as situations changed the Forsyth County GIS Mobile ERS immediately updated the map that was then distributed to the response agencies which allowed those agencies to make immediate decisions and alternate routes for emergency services including fire, law enforcement, school transportation, EMS, and GEMA.

The second opportunity was for a full scale wildland fire exercise in March of 2009 that included multiple counties, state agencies, the National Weather Service and responders from four fire jurisdictions. The Forsyth County GIS Mobile ERS provided a resource management web mapping application, National Wildland Fire Coordinating Group briefing maps, situational maps, potential helicopter landing zone maps, monitored weather conditions, and provided exceptional support to the Incident Command Post. As the GIS Mobile ERS unit was deployed for this event their mobile ability allowed them to set up adjacent to the Incident Command Post with connectivity to both the command post and our county network which provided a very unique opportunity for us to utilize resources and data that was unavailable to Forsyth County EMA on an incident site prior to their formation.

Thank you for the opportunity to recommend the Forsyth County GIS Mobile Emergency Response System.

Respectfully,



Lorraine Morris MCEM, NREMT-I

Emergency Management Coordinator