



Forsyth County Fire Department

RE: Forsyth County GIS Mobile Emergency Response System

To whom it may concern,

I have had the pleasure of working with the gentlemen of the Forsyth County GIS Department recently. I am a Captain with the Forsyth County Fire Department and I am also an Operations Section Chief with one of Georgia's State All Hazards Incident Management Teams. In March of this year I invited John Kilgore and his team to assist us in a Wildland Fire Exercise in Dawson Forest. This exercise was conducted in a remote area of the forest where the power for all electronics and lighting were via generator. The weather was very cold in the mornings and dry and windy during the day and the command post was located in an open field.

The exercise was started on Friday afternoon and ran through Friday at approximately midnight and started again at 07:00 hours Saturday morning and ran through approximately 16:00 that afternoon. Mr. Kilgore provided himself and three of his staff and an enclosed trailer containing all equipment necessary for providing map products for the incident. They were able to provide large topo maps of the entire forest area as well as detailed maps of the two fire parameters including division breaks, crew locations, water fill sites for engines, etc. This information was very valuable as an OSC to allow me to quick reference the incident area. They were also able to provide 8 1/2 x 11 maps to be included in the Incident Action Plan provided to the field personnel. Another valuable asset they provided was the capability for the Incident Management Team to view all information on standardized ICS forms that are utilized by the team and mapping via a server located in the GIS trailer that allowed us to connect to the server via wireless.

This is a valuable resource and a very unique resource in the southeast. The capability and knowledge of the Forsyth County GIS Department was one of the major reasons this exercise was such a success. I have been to many large incidents in the Southeast U.S. and this type of resource is rarely available and when it is available it is a very costly private vendor. Forsyth County Fire Department and the NGA AHIMT are proud to work with such PROFESSIONALS.

Thank you,

David McWhorter, Captain
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