



FORSYTHCOUNTY
Department of Communications
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**COUNTY GIS PROGRAM DESIGNED TO AID
FIRST RESPONDERS RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD**

System cited for efficient use of technology

FORSYTHCOUNTY, Georgia – A system designed by the Forsyth County Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Department to make crucial data available to first responders during large scale incidents has garnered national accolades.

Forsyth County’s GIS Mobile Emergency Response System (ERS) has been named a ‘Most Efficient Use of Technology’ winner in the inaugural Emergency Management Digital Distinction Awards presented by e.Republic’s Center for Digital Government and *Emergency Management* magazine. The awards recognize outstanding digital applications that enable first responders to deliver emergency services more effectively. Forsyth County was one of only eight award recipients nationwide.

“We congratulate the winners of the Emergency Management Digital Distinction awards,” Cathilea Robinett, executive vice president for the Center for Digital Government, said. “With budgets tighter than ever, they are outstanding examples of projects and applications which facilitate first responders and ultimately enhance their mission of keeping citizens safe.”

“Through their project execution, diligence and determination to serve citizens, these projects embody excellence in the emergency management public sector,” Marty Pastula, vice president for the Emergency Management Media Group, said. “Congratulations to all recipients.”

Forsyth County developed its GIS Mobile ERS to enhance the preparedness, response and recovery phase of emergency management for the county. The system is designed to

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be used as an emergency support function for the Forsyth County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) or deployed in the field to provide direct support to first responders. The Mobile ERS uses pre-made templates for quick map and report making, provides extensive base data, and integrates models that allow for what-if analysis in the field.

“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,” Fire Chief Danny Bowman said. “Beyond the safety factor, GIS data is used to coordinate resources and prepare operations in a manner that is cost effective.”

The Mobile ERS is designed to provide direct support to first responders during local, regional or state-level emergencies and disasters. This is the second award the system has received. In 2009, the Mobile ERS was one of only two award winners internationally in the single-process systems category in the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA) 2009 Exemplary Systems in Government awards.

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