

Virtual USA

Connecting Emergency Responders to Real-Time, Actionable Information

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Topics

- Issues, Problems, Potential Solutions
- Virtual USA and vUSA Gen III Prototype
- Virtual USA – Regional Pilots & Lessons Learned
- Virtual USA – Pacific NW Pilot
- Closing/Questions

National Problem

- Inability to access and seamlessly share information and collaborate across jurisdictions in *real or near-real time*
- Typically involves a “*closed*” operating environment
 - Crisis/incident management systems
 - Resource management systems
 - Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) systems
 - Single purpose & highly secure Portals & websites
 - GIS enabled visualization platforms (accessible within EOCs only)
 - Data available to a limited few - kept secure behind agency firewalls
- Cultural, governance, funding, data sharing, expertise barriers limit effective information sharing at all levels

Result: Siloed use of resources that impedes the mission of saving lives and protecting property



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Virginia Interoperability Picture for Emergency Response (VIPER) Case Study Video (5 min)

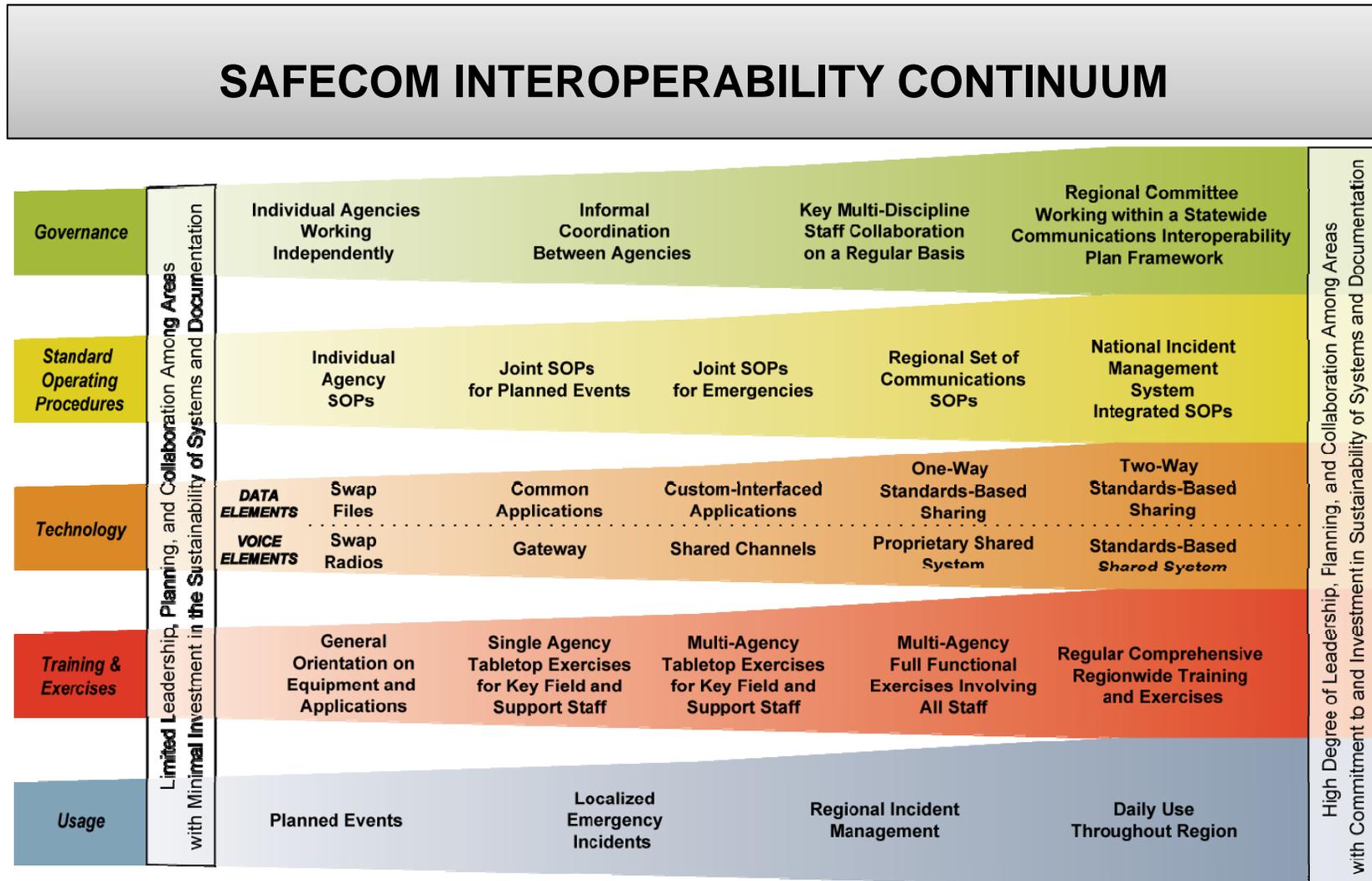
URL: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tdfhz90rlcI&feature=related>



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There Is No Silver-Bullet Technology Solution



Potential Solutions

- Single National System that ALL must use?
- 10 Regional Systems (aligned with FEMA) that ALL must use?
- 50 State Systems that ALL must use?

OR

- Trusted Information Sharing Capability leveraging existing systems that ALL can access and use on a daily basis?



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Virtual USA (vUSA)



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Virtual USA: Scope

What is Virtual USA?

What It Is

Initiative driven/led by practitioners

A web-based information sharing capability - a dynamic /catalog of web links

Leverages use of existing investments, systems and resources

Data sharing within vUSA controlled and maintained by data owners

Keeps **local and state** data and systems in **owners** hands

Integrates existing frameworks through a technology-agnostic approach (multi-viewer environment)

What It Is Not

Not a Federal Government mandate

Not a data warehouse or geospatial platform

Does not require replacement of existing systems and databases

Not a requirement for states and locals to lose control or ownership of their data

Not a duplication of other DHS or FEMA systems initiatives.

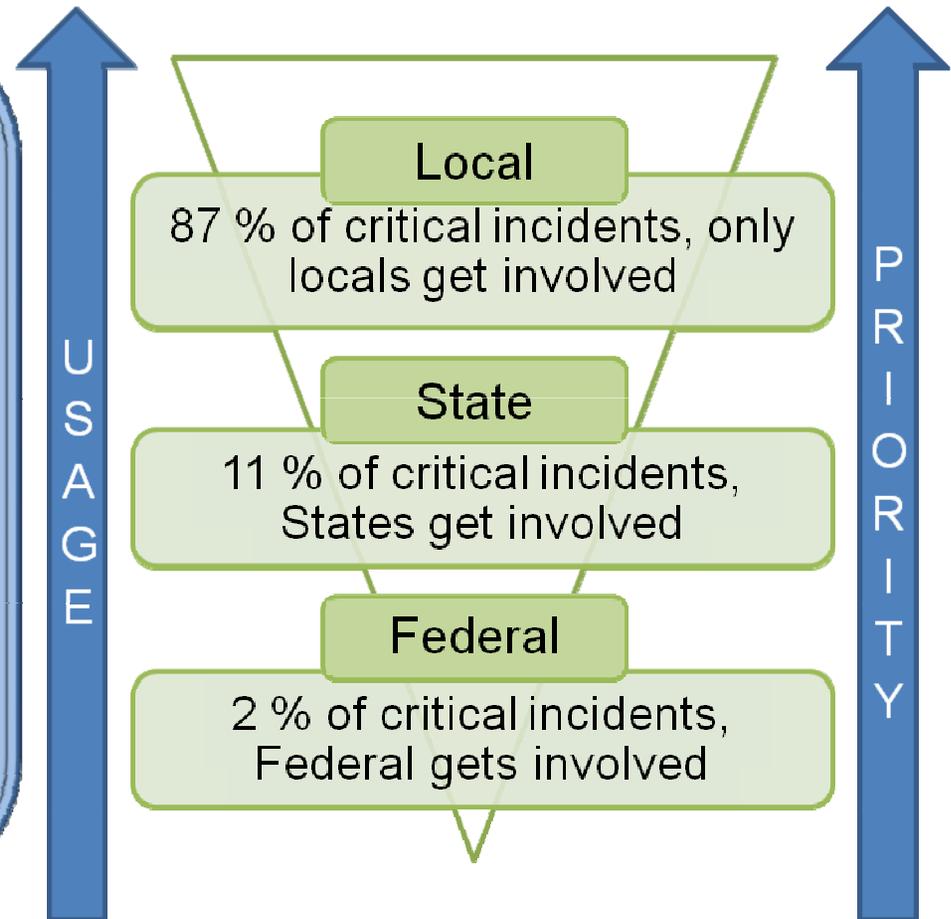
Complementary to SAVER, UICDS, DHS Earth, HSIN, etc.)



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Virtual USA: Core Principles

- Events/disasters are local
- Response is local
- Most valuable Data/Information is Local
- Local practitioner needs must drive solutions
- Solutions must integrate with local systems used by operators on a daily basis



Figures related to incidents within Alabama, as determined by the Alabama Emergency Management Agency



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vUSA Generation III Prototype Information Sharing Data Catalog

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[The Value of Viewers](#) | [The Need for Sharing](#) | [The Solution](#) | [Resources](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Virtual USA creates a cost-effective nationwide capability driven by practitioners that significantly improves information sharing and decision making. Based on current and emerging technologies, Virtual USA enables faster discovery and exchange of critical information presented in a geographic context — thereby making it actionable.



Registered Users

Are you a member of a participating vUSA organization or government agency? If so, you can log in here or request a username and password.

Username Password

[Request user access](#) to vUSA.

Virtual USA:
The right information, at the right time, for the right people

In an emergency, reliable information is a decision maker's most important asset. Virtual USA enables emergency response agencies to more quickly find, share, and analyze data — allowing them to make better decisions based on more complete information.

The Virtual USA Web site provides the data pipeline that allows partners to share critical information between geospatial viewers. The success of Virtual USA rests not only on technical capabilities, but on existing relationships among a community of emergency managers at all levels who agree to collaborate to improve situational awareness and emergency response.

What the States are Saying...

"Setting up a geospatial visualization capability in Idaho is truly a game changing ability that will radically change the speed and quality of our response efforts. Virtual USA is a critical component of our information sharing capability."

Patrick Frischmuth
Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security

1 2 3 4

Learn more about Virtual USA

- [How states' geospatial visualization systems are revolutionizing emergency preparedness and response](#)
- [What happens when a regional emergency requires a coordinated response](#)
- [How Virtual USA helps responders exchange critical information quickly and securely within a trusted community](#)



vUSA Generation III Prototype Information Sharing Data Catalog

Home

Welcome to Virtual USA, a dynamic data catalog where you can discover and share information and collaborate with partners from across the Nation.

My vUSA

Name

- My Library (59)
- My Uploads (33)
- Common (53)

Date Modified

- Feb 28, 2011
- Feb 28, 2011
- Feb 28, 2011

Partner Library

- Alabama
- Arkansas
- Florida
- Georgia
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maryland
- Missouri
- Mississippi
- Montana
- North Carolina
- Oregon
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Virginia
- Washington

- FEMA Headquarters
- FEMA Region IV
- FEMA Region VI
- Coast Guard
- Health and Human Services
- National Guard Bureau
- NORTHCOM
- U.S. Geological Survey

Announcements

vUSA welcomes FEMA Headquarters.	Feb 17, 2011
FEMA Headquarters has been temporarily granted access to the vUSA community by the chairpersons of SE ROPP and PNW pilots.	
vUSA welcomes AR, IL, IN and MO.	Feb 02, 2011
vUSA community welcomes USGS.	Jan 31, 2011
vUSA community welcomes USCG.	Jan 31, 2011
HHS vUSA community welcomes HHS.	Jan 27, 2011
vUSA community welcomes FEMA Region IV.	Jan 10, 2011
vUSA community welcomes FEMA Region VI.	Jan 06, 2011

Inbox

- Notifications (2)
- Alerts (1)

Quick Links

- Post Link
- Upload File
- Chat
- Comments



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Virtual USA - Posting a Data Feed

[Home](#)

VIRTUAL USA

[Libraries](#) [Directory](#) [Inbox](#) [FlexViewer](#) [EarthViewer](#)

Post Link

[Step 1: Enter Info](#) [Step 2: Share](#) [Step 3: Review & Upload](#)

Link address, title, description, keywords

* Link address (URL) * Link Type

Common Data

* Title

* Description Keywords

Categories

Update frequency & availability

Point of contact

Methods



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vUSA Generation III Prototype Information Sharing Data Catalog

Libraries

My Library							Quick Links
Title	File type	Posted by	Partner	Upload Date	Rating	REMOVE	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>				Post Link Upload File Chat Comments
> Mike test hazmat	ArcGIS REST	Idaho Military Division, Mike Langrell	ID	12/08/2010	☆☆☆☆☆	✖	
> Area Field office TEST	ArcGIS REST	Idaho Military Division, Randy Kingsmore	ID	12/08/2010	☆☆☆☆☆	✖	
> WA EOC Significant Events	GeoRSS	Washington Military Dept IT Division, Debbie Bostwick	WA	12/08/2010	☆☆☆☆☆	✖	
> Montana Structures	ArcGIS REST	Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Heather Orr	OR	12/08/2010	☆☆☆☆☆	✖	
> Idaho Significant Events	ArcGIS REST	Idaho BHS, Becky Rose	ID	12/08/2010	☆☆☆☆☆	✖	
> ***Test Feed #3*** NexRad Feed of Dec 24-25 1996	ArcGIS REST	DHS R-Tech and CCI Support, Jeff Sopol	VA	12/08/2010	☆☆☆☆☆	✖	
> ***Test Feed #1*** Winter 96 Storms	ArcGIS REST	DHS R-Tech and CCI Support, Jeff Sopol	VA	12/08/2010	☆☆☆☆☆	✖	
> *** Test-Tennessee DOT Incidents***	RSS	DHS R-Tech and CCI Support, Jeff Sopol	VA	12/08/2010	★★★★☆	✖	
> VENOM Flood Scenario	ArcGIS REST	Oregon Geospatial Enterprise Office, Erik Endrulat	OR	12/07/2010	☆☆☆☆☆	✖	
> VENOM Transportation Service	ArcGIS REST	Oregon Geospatial Enterprise Office, Erik Endrulat	OR	12/07/2010	☆☆☆☆☆	✖	
> VENOM EOC & Public Safety	ArcGIS REST	Oregon Geospatial Enterprise Office, Erik Endrulat	OR	12/07/2010	☆☆☆☆☆	✖	
> VENOM Community Infrastructure	ArcGIS REST	Oregon Geospatial Enterprise Office, Erik Endrulat	OR	12/07/2010	☆☆☆☆☆	✖	
> VENOM Hospitals & Healthcare	ArcGIS REST	Oregon Geospatial Enterprise Office, Erik Endrulat	OR	12/07/2010	☆☆☆☆☆	✖	
> Oregon Department of Transportation - TripCheck Twitter Feeds	HTML	State of Oregon, Sean McSpaden	OR	12/06/2010	☆☆☆☆☆	✖	
> Oregon Department of Transportation - Interstate 5 Portland to Wilsonville (Tweets RSS Feed)	RSS	State of Oregon, Sean McSpaden	OR	12/07/2010	☆☆☆☆☆	✖	
> Oregon Department of Environmental Quality - Public Notices	HTML	State of Oregon, Sean McSpaden	OR	12/06/2010	☆☆☆☆☆	✖	
> Oregon Beach Monitoring Program: DHS Public Health News Releases	HTML	State of Oregon, Sean McSpaden	OR	12/06/2010	☆☆☆☆☆	✖	
> Oregon Department of Human Services - Public Health News	HTML	State of Oregon, Sean McSpaden	OR	12/02/2010	☆☆☆☆☆	✖	
> CDC Online Newsroom	RSS	State of Oregon, Sean McSpaden	OR	12/07/2010	☆☆☆☆☆	✖	
> CDC: Emergency Preparedness and Response - What's New	RSS	State of Oregon, Sean McSpaden	OR	12/07/2010	☆☆☆☆☆	✖	

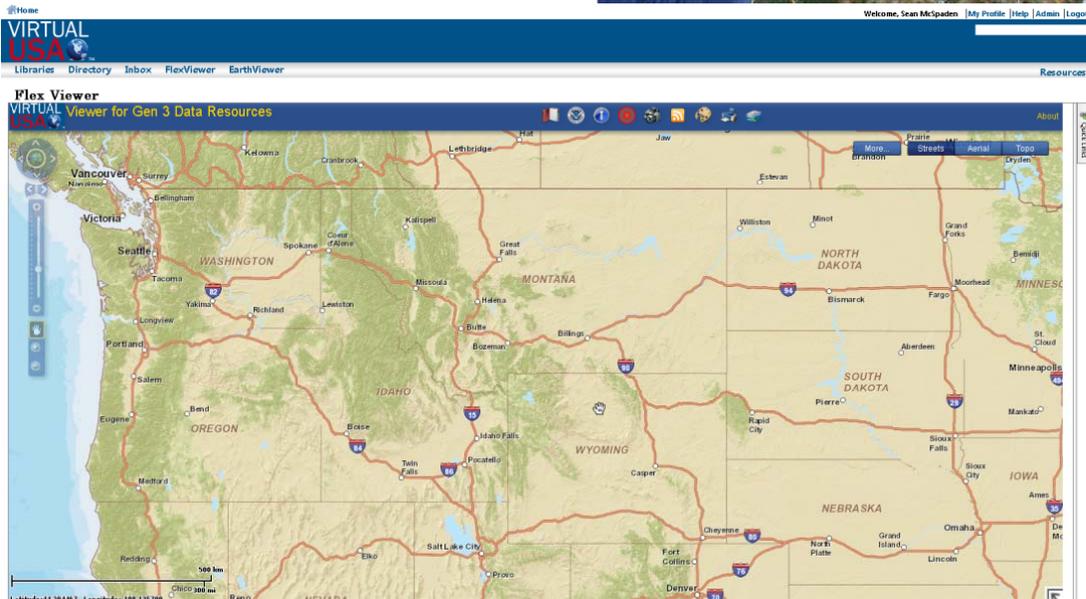
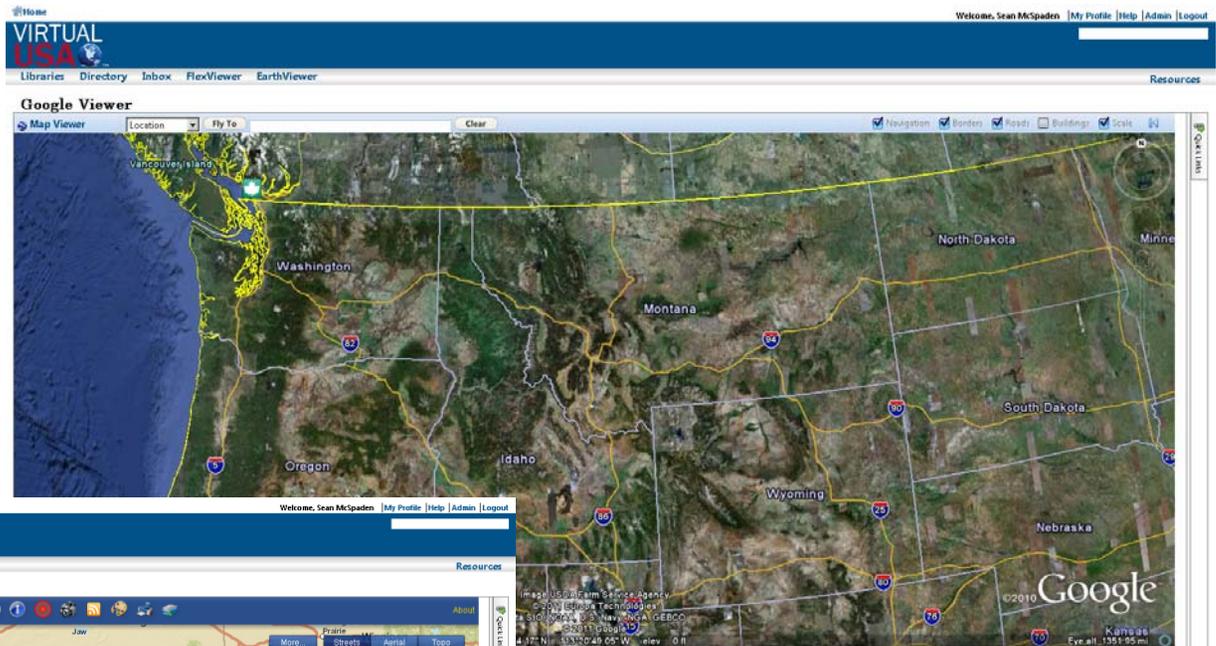
Page size: 20 46 items in 3 pages



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Technology Agnostic and Open Source Tools



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vUSA Generation III Widget (“My Library” Information Sharing)

Home Welcome, Sean McSpaden | My Profile | Help | Admin | Logout

VIRTUAL USA
 Libraries Directory Inbox FlexViewer EarthViewer Resources

Flex Viewer
 VIRTUAL USA Viewer for Gen 3 Data Resources

VUSA Gen 3 Library
 Login: mcspadens Password: ***** Refresh **61 Items (My Library)**

My Library
 Common Data
 Partner
 Keywords

Maps
 GeoRSS / Feeds
 HTML Links / Web Apps
 Shared Documents

Status	Content Type	Title
RSS	RSS	Earthquake Notification Service
GeoRSS	GeoRSS	NDBC - Station POR03 - 9431647 - Port Orford, OR Observations
RSS	RSS	USGS Landslides Hazard Alerts
GeoRSS	GeoRSS	City of Portland 911 System Calls
RSS	RSS	FFMA National Situation Updates
RSS	RSS	NWS: SYCO3 Johnson Creek 3 Sycamore (Oregon)
GeoRSS	GeoRSS	TN DOT Road Conditions
RSS	RSS	USGS Newsroom - Oregon
RSS	RSS	NWS: SDO3 Sandy River 3 Bull Run (Oregon)

Latitude: 40.024901 Longitude: 111.006015



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vUSA Generation III Prototype Resources

Home Welcome, Sean McSpaden | My Profile | Help | Admin | Logout

VIRTUAL USA

Libraries Directory Inbox FlexViewer EarthViewer Resources

Resources

Widget Setup GFE Users Guide SE MOA PNW MOA Terms of Use

Instructions for installing the Gen3 Library widget version 1.0

Last Widget Update: Jan 18, 2011

- Update your **config.xml** file with the following.
Please place inside the widget **Container** tags with your other widgets

```
<widget label="vUSA Gen 3 Library"
icon="assets/images/vusa/dhs_icon.png"
config="widgets/vUSALibrary/vUSALibrary.xml"
url="widgets/vUSALibrary/vUSALibrary.swf" />
```
- Download and copy **vUSALibrary** folder that contains compiled code and XML to the widgets folder of your **FlexViewer**.
The widgets folder is located directly off the flexviewer root directory.
After copying it should look like: `.../flexviewer2.1/widgets/vUSALibrary`
- Download and copy **vUSA** folder that contains additional icon resources into the **assets/images** directory.
After copying it should look like: `.../flexviewer2.1/assets/images/vusa`
- This widget requires the use of a **proxyserver** to function properly.
The proxyserver URL must be entered into the **vUSALibrary.xml** file.
This widget will not automatically know to use the same one that can be set from **<httpproxy>** tags in your **config.xml**.
If you have already configured your viewer to use a proxy, please re-enter the full proxy page url, but include the **?** at the end of the string.
An example of how that might look is as follows:
`http://whateverServer.com/proxypage_net/proxy.aspx?`

For additional information about **proxy configuration**, here is a useful forum posting and other resources:
An **asp.net proxy** that has been modified to work with **GeoRSS** more reliably can be found at: [Reading-Remote-XML-Data-Stores-in-.NET](#)
Other proxy page resources: [Sample-Flex-Viewer-2.1-proxy-support](#) and [Main configuration file](#)

- Installation complete!
- Note that the Web Browser must be set to check for newer Versions of stored Pages . . . **Every time I visit the web page**
In Internet Explorer, that setting is found under
`Tools → Internet Options → General Tab → Browser History → Settings → Every time I visit the web page`



Virtual USA – A National Solution

- Voluntary, practitioner-driven information sharing framework
- Facilitates national information sharing using three approaches:
 1. Web-based information sharing catalog/library & alerting/notification capabilities
 - Open data standards – based information sharing
 2. Basic Viewers (Google Earth & ESRI/Adobe Flex)
 3. Application to interface with existing systems and catalogs (“My Library” Widget/Applet)
- Provides the user the ability to decide what to share, how to share it, how long to share it, and with whom to share it
- Allows participants to search data catalogs for rapid discovery
- Allows users to access data, data feeds, documents/files, and URLs natively within their own geospatial platforms

Virtual USA Regional Pilots



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Virtual USA Pilots

- Southeast Regional Operations Platform Pilot (SE ROPP)
 - Phase I Demonstration - November 2009
 - Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia
 - In the beginning, only two states had platforms - Virtual Alabama and Virginia's VIPER. Now each participant has their own platform
- Pacific Northwest (PNW) Pilot
 - Phase 1 Demonstration – December 2010
 - Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington
 - Four (4) of the five (5) states now have their own platform
- New England (NE) Pilot (pending)
 - Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont



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Virtual USA Pilots

Purpose 1:

To support regional collaboration and information sharing

- Every jurisdiction and geographic region has different needs and issues
- Pilots prove that new technologies and concepts work before introducing them as solutions to the broader community

Purpose 2:

To develop and refine regional governance frameworks that support real-time collaboration and information sharing

Purpose 3:

To assist, as needed, in the development or refinement of state technological capabilities to share information seamlessly among all stakeholders



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Virtual USA Pilot Milestones

- Assess state and regional capabilities
- Identify state and regional information needs and requirements
- Develop and expand technical capabilities
 - If requested, DHS may provide Pilot Implementation Team support to assist individual states in developing or refining intrastate information-sharing capabilities.
- Develop information-sharing agreement with Virtual USA pilot participants as well as a region-specific appendix
- Perform a regional capstone demonstration
- Conduct lessons learned session to benefit future pilots



SE ROPP Demonstration 2009

Texas View



Alabama View



Louisiana View



Mississippi View



States shared and viewed information (e.g., shelter status, road closures, county EOC activation, FEMA staging areas, etc.) in real time using their own platforms.



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Southeast ROPP Lessons Learned

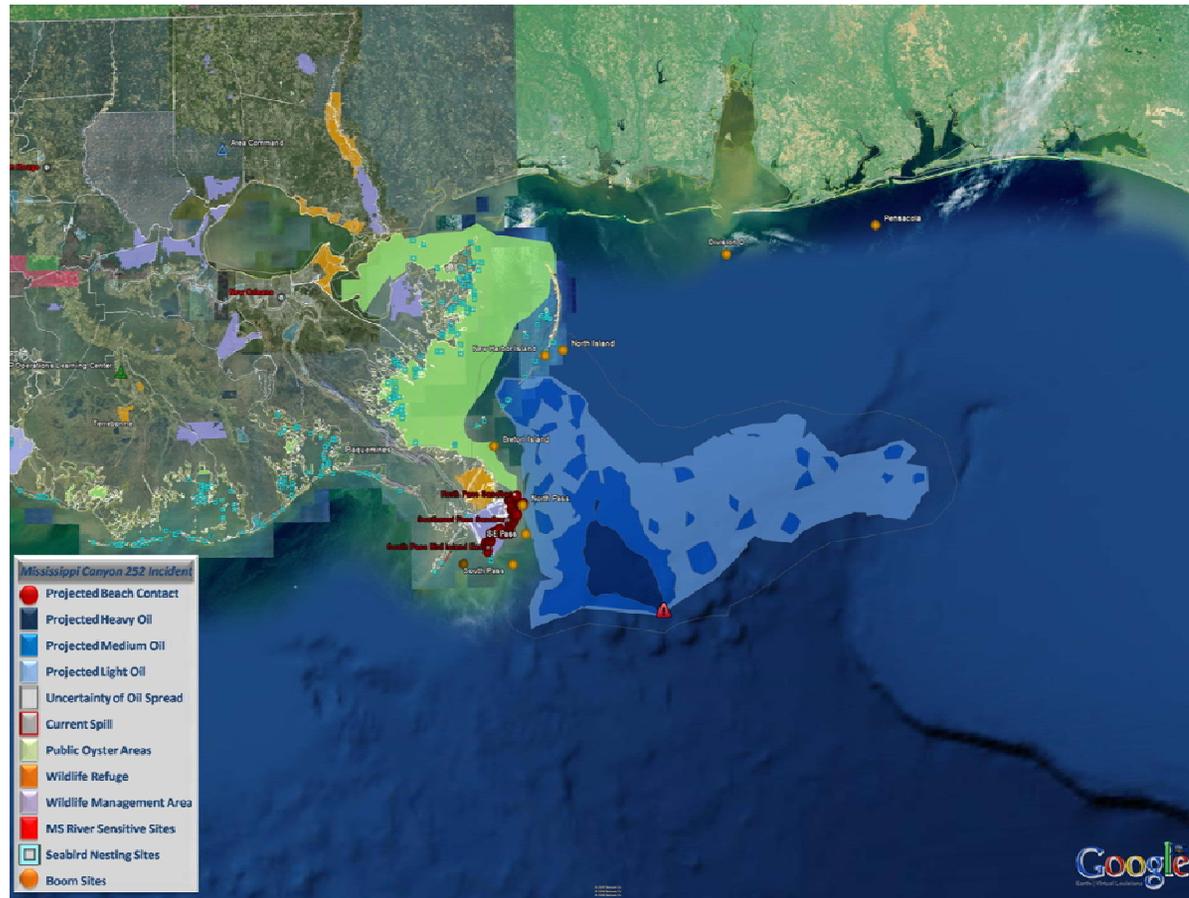
- Formal Governance & Sustainability of funding and commitment are essential
- Access to Relevant Data is key
- Data Standards and solving data format incompatibility must be a priority
- Standard Operating Procedures are an imperative next step
- Technical vs. Operational Capability (Two worlds apart)



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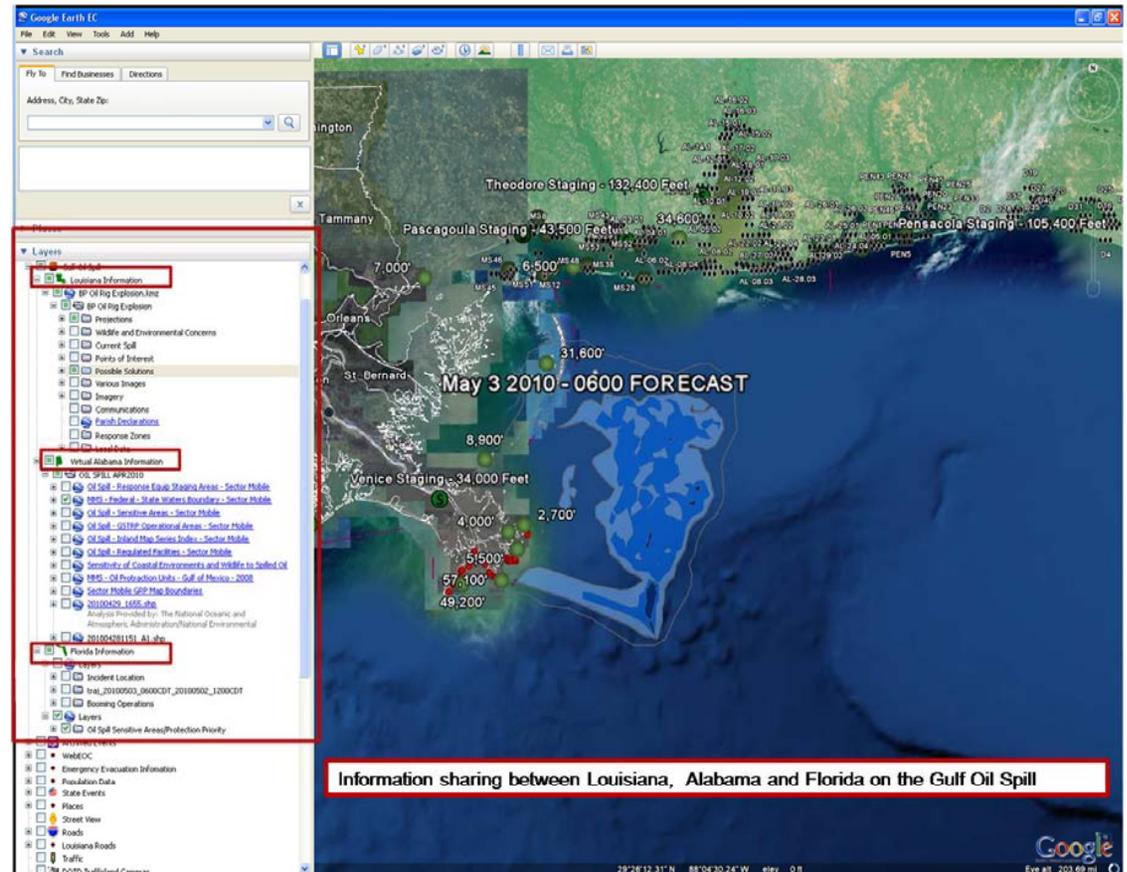
Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill – April 30, 2010



Virtual Louisiana was used to actively map the changes in projected levels and path of the oil spill zones, boom sites, projected beach contact, and projected economic impacts on oyster leases, seabird nesting colonies, wildlife management areas, and wildlife refuges.

vUSA Success Highlights in Gulf Region

- Gulf states were able to share information across borders by locating and accessing live feeds within vUSA Prototype.
- Multiple agencies' daily incident reports were uploaded into state WebEOCs and were viewable in multiple visualization platforms.
- BP has posted dynamic feeds from their data catalog on the prototype for all users.
- Florida's GATOR provided data for National Guard assets and Wildlife Commission officers to use in developing mission plans.



vUSA Relationships Enhance Oil Spill Response



BP common operating picture integrating data from Florida Department of Emergency Management in collaboration with National Guard and Florida Wildlife Commission



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Virtual Alabama Case Study Video (3 min)

URL: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a-1I0JTWiIY&>

OR

URL: http://dhs.alabama.gov/virtual_alabama/home.aspx



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Virtual USA Pacific Northwest Pilot

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Oregon Deputy State Chief Information Officer

vUSA PNW Pilot – Technical Working Group Chair



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Pacific Northwest (PNW) Pilot

- Kickoff Meeting: Tacoma, WA – September 2009
 - Goal: Develop a regional information sharing capability (Common Operating Picture for Emergency Management)
- Shared Commitment
 - Adjutant Generals from each of the five member states agreed to create a PNW Regional Pilot Demonstration within a year (December 2010)
 - Scenario: Severe Winter Storm
- Pilot participants
 - Alaska
 - Idaho
 - Montana
 - Oregon
 - Washington



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vUSA Pacific Northwest (PNW) Pilot

- **September 2009 to December 2010**
 - Formed Regional and State Executive, Operations and Technical Working groups to guide our work
 - Developed and signed a PNW Memorandum of Agreement
 - Serves as the “rules of the road” for information sharing across the region
 - Guides our shared access to and use of a national Virtual Information Sharing Library
 - Worked to develop Common Operating Pictures within each of the PNW states and enhance regional information sharing
 - Support provided by Pacific NW National Labs, and the Virtual USA Team within the Department of Homeland Security, Science and Technology Directorate, First Responder Division.
 - Held vUSA PNW Pilot Demonstration – December 16, 2010



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vUSA Pacific Northwest (PNW) Pilot

- Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) executed – 10/08/10
- MOA includes a Technical Appendix primarily focused on
 - File Formats
 - XML, KML, KMZ, GeoRSS, WMS, REST Services API, and ATOM
 - Metadata – Metadata “Light” based on FGDC Metadata Standard
 - Title, Originator, Description, Update Frequency, Use Constraints, Contact Organization (Contact Information), Format, Online Linkage (Published Access Point), Bounding Coordinates, Entity Attributes, Theme Keyword(s)
 - Common Information Needs - ~30 datasets members will share
 - Shelter locations and status , Hospital locations and status, Medical/Public Health Notices, Storm Gauge Readings, DOT Camera feeds, etc.
- Future Technical Working Group actions will focus on
 - Symbology & System/Data Security (in partnership with DHS S&T and FEMA Region X)



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PNW Pilot Challenges

- Sprawling Geography and Dispersed Population

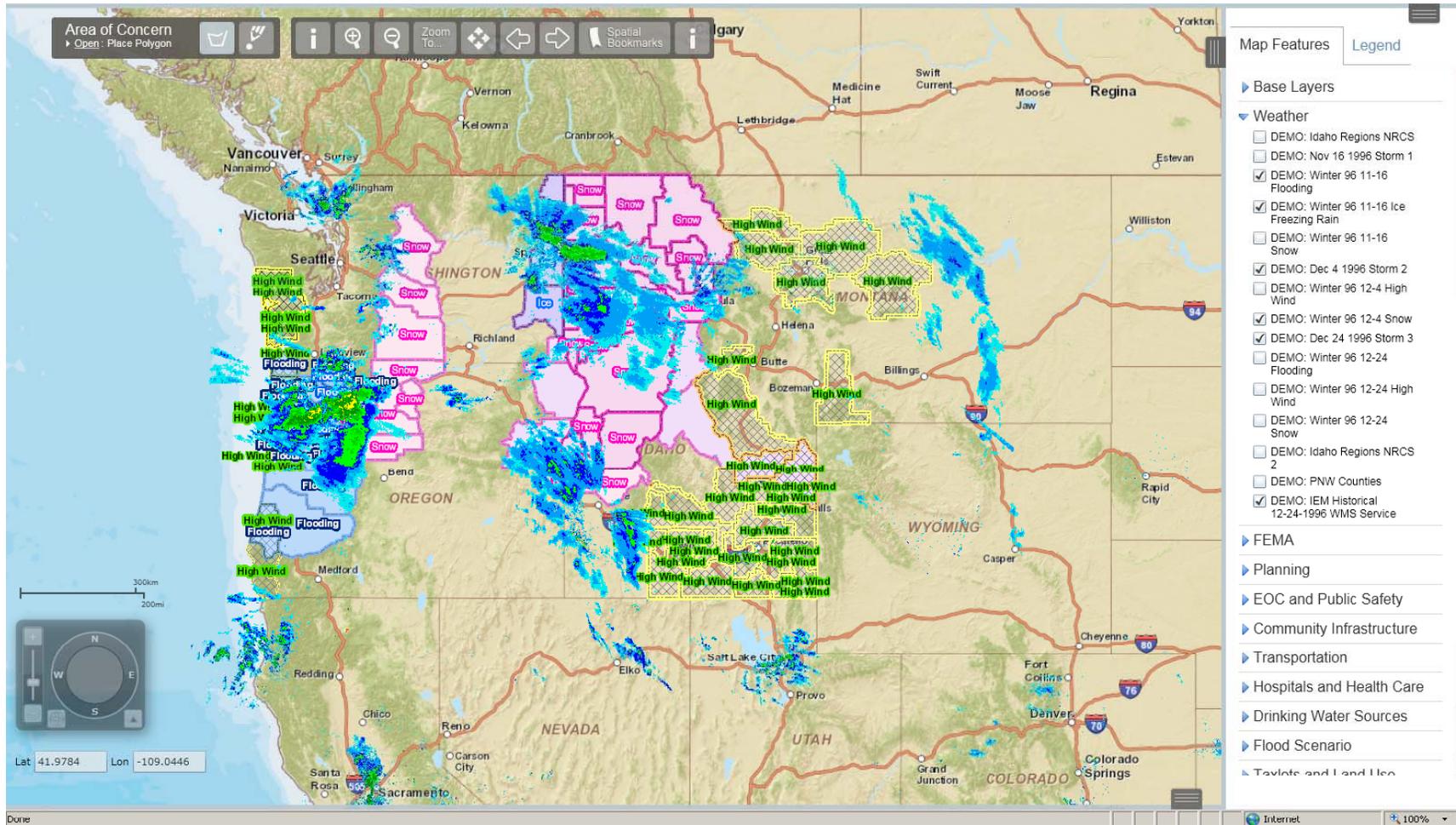
State	Sq. Miles	Rank	Persons per Sq. Mile
Washington	71,303	18	88.6
Idaho	83,574	14	15.6
Oregon	98,386	9	35.6
Montana	147,046	4	6.2
Alaska	656,425	1	1.1

- Varied Capabilities & Standards
 - Technical Infrastructure, GIS and Operational Systems
 - Geospatial and Operational Data
 - Standard Operating Procedures
- Need for Dedicated Resources - Project management/technical staff
- Need for Sustainability - Funding and support beyond the pilot
- Sovereignty & Governance
 - Strong history of autonomy across jurisdictions



Virtual USA PNW Pilot Demonstration

Severe Winter Storm - 1996



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VENOM

Virtual Emergency Network of Multnomah

Sean McSpaden

Oregon Deputy State Chief Information Officer

vUSA PNW Pilot – Technical Working Group Chair



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Virtual Emergency Network of Multnomah

venom

Virtual Emergency Network of Multnomah County

Log in

User name:

Password:

After log in, send me to:

- The interactive map
- Data & Services Access

If you don't have an account, request one [here](#)

About VENOM

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipisicing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation.



© Multnomah County, Oregon

[Web EOC](#) | [Ops Center](#) | [More Resources...](#)



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Virtual Emergency Network of Multnomah

The screenshot displays the VENOM (Virtual Emergency Network of Multnomah County) web application. The interface includes a header with the 'venom' logo, navigation links for 'Data & Service Access', 'About VENOM', 'Help', and 'Contact Us', and a user greeting 'Hello, TestUser | My account | Logout'. Below the header, there are logos for Multnomah County, VIRTUAL USA, and the State of Oregon. The main content area features a map of the Pacific Northwest, with a toolbar at the top left containing various map controls like 'Area of Concern', 'Zoom In', 'Zoom Out', and 'Spatial Bookmarks'. A sidebar on the right lists 'Map Features' such as 'Base Layers', 'vUSA Feeds', 'My VENOM', 'Weather', 'FEMA', 'Planning', 'EOC and Public Safety', 'Community Infrastructure', 'Transportation', 'Hospitals and Health Care', 'Drinking Water Sources', 'Flood Scenario', 'Taxlots and Land Use', and 'External Feeds'. The map shows major cities like Portland, Eugene, Salem, and Boise, along with state boundaries for Oregon and Idaho. A scale bar and a compass are visible in the bottom left corner of the map area.



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Virtual Emergency Network of Multnomah

venom

Hello, TestUser | [My account](#) | [Log out](#)

Virtual Emergency Network of Multnomah County

Interactive Map
Data & Services Access
About VENOM
Help
Contact Us

Data & Services Access

Items per page: 10 20 30

[Create new service](#)

Name ▾	Category	Origin	Type		
1 EOC and Public Safety This map service includes layers from the "EOC and Public Safety" group shown on the VENOM site. TEST TEST	Hospitals & Health Care	Multnomah County	Map Service	Open in ArcGIS Preview	Edit Delete
2 Community Infrastructure This map service includes layers from the "Community Infrastructure" group on the VENOM site.	Transportation	Multnomah County	Map Service	Open in ArcGIS Preview	Edit Delete
3 Transportation This map service includes layers from the "Transportation" group shown on the VENOM site.	Transportation	Multnomah County	Map Service	Open in ArcGIS Preview	Edit Delete
4 Hospitals & Health Care This map service includes layers from the "Hospitals & Health Care" group shown on the VENOM site.	Hospitals & Health Care	Multnomah County	Map Service	Open in ArcGIS Preview	Edit Delete
5 Drinking Water Sources This map service includes layers from the "Drinking Water Sources" group shown on the VENOM site.	Weather & Environmental	Multnomah County	Map Service	Open in ArcGIS Preview	Edit Delete



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VENOM - "My VENOM" Data Loading Service

The screenshot shows a web-based mapping application interface. The main map displays a geographical area of Oregon, with various cities and towns labeled, including Kelso, Saint Helens, Tillamook, Portland, Salem, Eugene, Coos Bay, Grants Pass, Chemult, Klamath Falls, Lakeview, Yreka, Randle, Yakima, Sunnyside, Pasco, Walla Walla, Moscow, Nezperce, The Dalles, Goldendale, Enterprise, La Grande, Baker, Council, Boise City, Canyon City, Burns, Vale, Frenchglen, Arock, Riddle, and Murphy. A dialog box titled "Add New Service" is overlaid on the map, containing the following information:

- Name: FEMA Region X News
- Type: Geo RSS
- Url: www.fema.gov/news/regionnews_rss.fema?region=10

The dialog box also includes a "Back to services" button at the top right and a "Save" button at the bottom right. The map interface includes a toolbar at the top with various navigation and editing tools, a legend on the right side, and a scale bar at the bottom left. The legend lists several map features, including Base Layers, vUSA Feeds, My VENOM (with sub-items like FEMA National Situation Updates, FEMA Region X News Releases, Oregon Population Density, Oregon: Congressional District, Salem GeoRSS, and Yahoo Traffic Feed - NYC), Weather, FEMA, Planning, EOC and Public Safety, Community Infrastructure, Transportation, Hospitals and Health Care, Drinking Water Sources, Flood Scenario, Taxlots and Land Use, and External Feeds. The bottom of the screen shows a browser status bar with "Internet" and "100%" zoom level.



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VENOM - Access to FEMA Data Feeds

FEMA: Region X News Releases Close

[January Is National Blood Donor Month](#)
 Tuesday, January 04, 2011 10:08:27 AM

SEATTLE, Wash. -- January has been recognized as National Blood Donor Month for over forty years (since 1970). Blood is traditionally in short supply during the winter months due to holiday travel schedules, inclement weather and illness and January in particular is a difficult month for blood center blood donations. But according to FEMA Regional Administrator Ken Murphy, if donations are down, the need for blood isn't.

[FEMA To Pacific Northwest Residents: Resolve To Be Ready In 2011](#)
 Thursday, December 16, 2010 9:59:43 AM

SEATTLE, Wash. -- With the holiday season upon us and 2011 fast approaching, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is encouraging all Americans to make emergency preparedness one of their New Year's resolutions for the coming year. After this month's tussle with Pineapple Express weather effects, FEMA Regional Administrator Ken Murphy has a few suggestions for those who need a catalyst to convert good intentions into tangible deeds.

Map Features Legend

- ▶ Base Layers
- ▶ VUSA Feeds
- ▼ My VENOM [Edit](#)
 - FEMA National Situation Updates
 - FEMA Region X News Releases
 - ▶ Oregon Population Density
 - ▶ Oregon: Congressional District
 - Salem GeoRSS
 - Yahoo Traffic Feed - NYC
- ▶ Weather
- ▼ FEMA
 - General Flood Hazard Zones
 - Total Economic Loss
 - Debris
- ▶ Planning
 - ▶ EOC and Public Safety
 - ▶ Community Infrastructure
 - ▶ Transportation
 - ▶ Hospitals and Health Care
 - ▶ Drinking Water Sources
 - ▶ Flood Scenario
 - ▶ Taxlots and Land Use
- ▶ External Feeds



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Virtual USA

My Library (Prep for Sharing)

Home

VIRTUAL USA

Libraries Directory Inbox FlexViewer EarthViewer

Libraries

My Library My Uploads Partners Common

Title	File type	Posted by	Partner	Upload Date	Rating	REMOVE
> NWS: SYCO3 Johnson Creek 3 Sycamore (Oregon)	RSS	State of Oregon, Sean McSpaden	OR	01/20/11 07:29	☆☆☆☆☆	✖
> NWS: SNDO3 Sandy River 3 Bull Run (Oregon)	RSS	State of Oregon, Sean McSpaden	OR	01/20/11 07:28	☆☆☆☆☆	✖
> NWS: PRTO3 Willamette River 3 Portland (Oregon)	RSS	State of Oregon, Sean McSpaden	OR	01/20/11 07:27	☆☆☆☆☆	✖
> NWS: VAPW1 Columbia River 3 Vancouver (Oregon)	RSS	State of Oregon, Sean McSpaden	OR	01/20/11 07:27	☆☆☆☆☆	✖
> NWS: Current Watches, Warnings and Advisories - Oregon	RSS	State of Oregon, Sean McSpaden	OR	01/20/11 07:26	☆☆☆☆☆	✖
> NWS: Current Hydrologic Alerts - Oregon	RSS	State of Oregon, Sean McSpaden	OR	01/20/11 07:24	☆☆☆☆☆	✖
> NWS: Current Hydrologic Forecasts - Oregon	RSS	State of Oregon, Sean McSpaden	OR	01/20/11 07:24	☆☆☆☆☆	✖
> USGS - M 5+ Earthquakes (7 days)	RSS	Multnomah County, Amy Esnard	OR	01/20/11 06:53	☆☆☆☆☆	✖
> FEMA - Federal Disaster Declarations	RSS	State of Oregon, Sean McSpaden	OR	01/20/11 06:25	☆☆☆☆☆	✖
> FEMA - Oregon Federal Disaster Declarations	RSS	State of Oregon, Sean McSpaden	OR	01/20/11 06:23	☆☆☆☆☆	✖
> FEMA National Situation Updates	RSS	State of Oregon, Sean McSpaden	OR	01/20/11 06:21	☆☆☆☆☆	✖
> FEMA Region X - News Releases	RSS	Multnomah County, Amy Esnard	OR	01/20/11 01:04	☆☆☆☆☆	✖
> State of Oregon/VENOM Planning Layer	ArcGIS REST	Oregon Geospatial Enterprise Office, Erik Endrulat	OR	12/16/10 10:21	☆☆☆☆☆	✖
> CDC Emergency Preparedness and Response - Recent Events and Outbreaks	RSS	State of Oregon, Sean McSpaden	OR	12/16/10 10:18	☆☆☆☆☆	✖

Page size: 20

14 items in 1 pages

Quick Links

- Post Link
- Upload File
- Chat
- Comments



Homeland Security



vUSA Generation III Widget (“My Library” Information Sharing)

Home Welcome, Sean McSpaden | My Profile | Help | Admin | Logout

VIRTUAL USA
 Libraries Directory Inbox FlexViewer EarthViewer Resources

Flex Viewer
 VIRTUAL USA Viewer for Gen 3 Data Resources

VUSA Gen 3 Library
 Login: mcspadens Password: ***** Refresh **61 Items (My Library)**

My Library
 Common Data
 Partner
 Keywords

Maps
 GeoRSS / Feeds
 HTML Links / Web Apps
 Shared Documents

Status	Content Type	Title
RSS	RSS	Earthquake Notification Service
GeoRSS	GeoRSS	NDBC - Station POR03 - 9431647 - Port Orford, OR Observations
RSS	RSS	USGS Landslides Hazard Alerts
GeoRSS	GeoRSS	City of Portland 911 System Calls
RSS	RSS	FFMA National Situation Updates
RSS	RSS	NWS: SYCO3 Johnson Creek 3 Sycamore (Oregon)
GeoRSS	GeoRSS	TN DOT Road Conditions
RSS	RSS	USGS Newsroom - Oregon
RSS	RSS	NWS: SDO3 Sandy River 3 Bull Run (Oregon)

Latitude: 40.024901 Longitude: 111.006015



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VENOM/vUSA My Library (Information Sharing)

Area of Concern
Open: Place Polygon

Map Features Legend

Base Layers

vUSA Feeds

- SYCO3 Johnson Creek near Sycamore (Oregon)
- SNDO3 Sandy River near Bull Run (Oregon)
- PRTO3 Willamette River at Portland (Oregon)
- VAPW1 Columbia River at Vancouver (Oregon)
- Current Watches, Warnings and Advisories for Oregon Issued by the National Weather Service
- Oregon - Current Hydrologic Alerts - NWS AHPS
- Oregon - Current Hydrologic Forecasts - NWS AHPS
- USGS M5+ Earthquakes
- FEMA: Federal Disaster Declarations
- FEMA: Federal Disaster Declarations
- FEMA: National Situation Updates
- FEMA: Region X News Releases
- CDC Emergency Preparedness and Response: Recent Outbreaks and Incidents
- Planning Points
- Planning Lines
- Planning Areas

My VENOM Edit

Weather

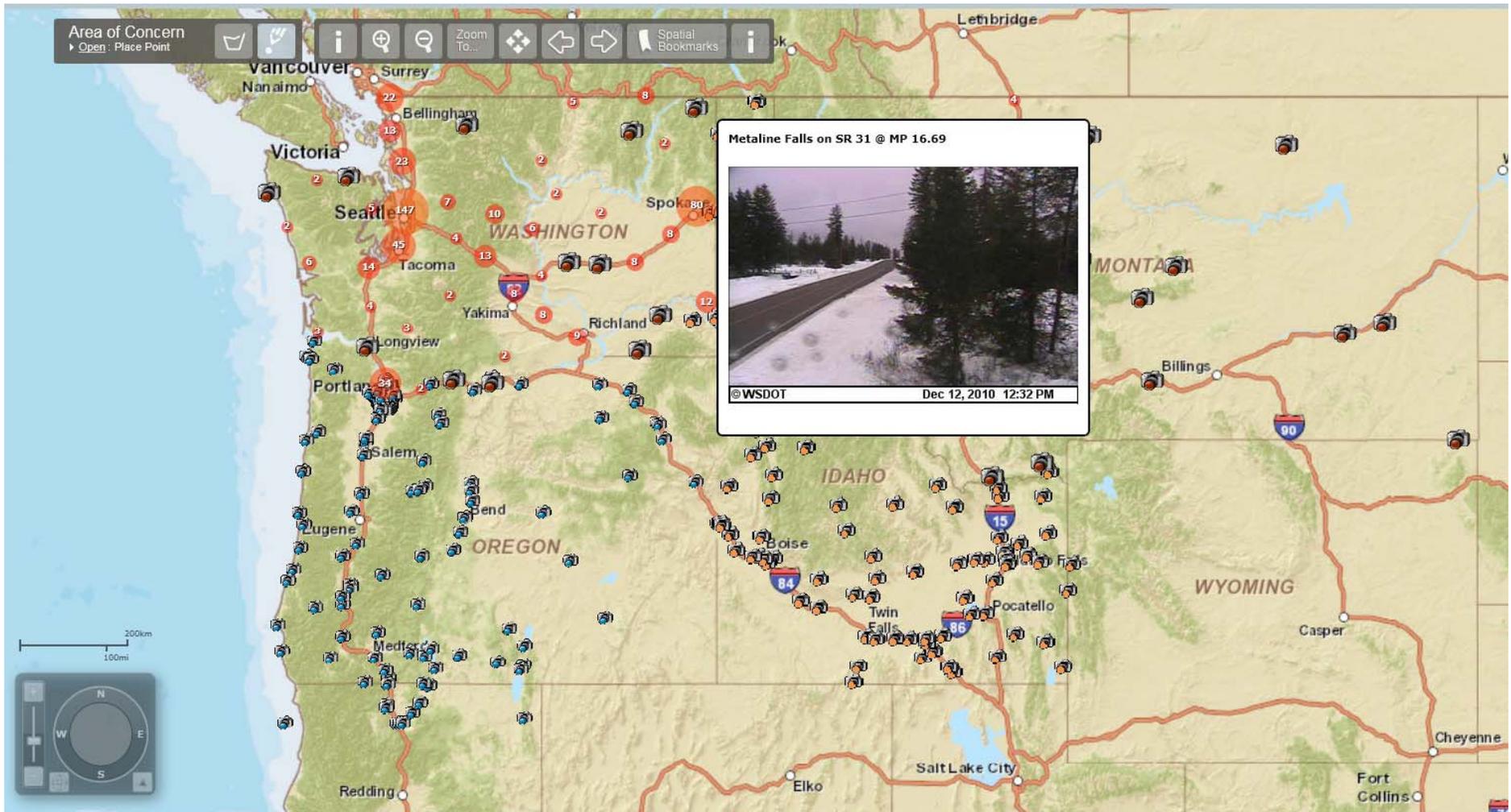
FEMA



Homeland Security



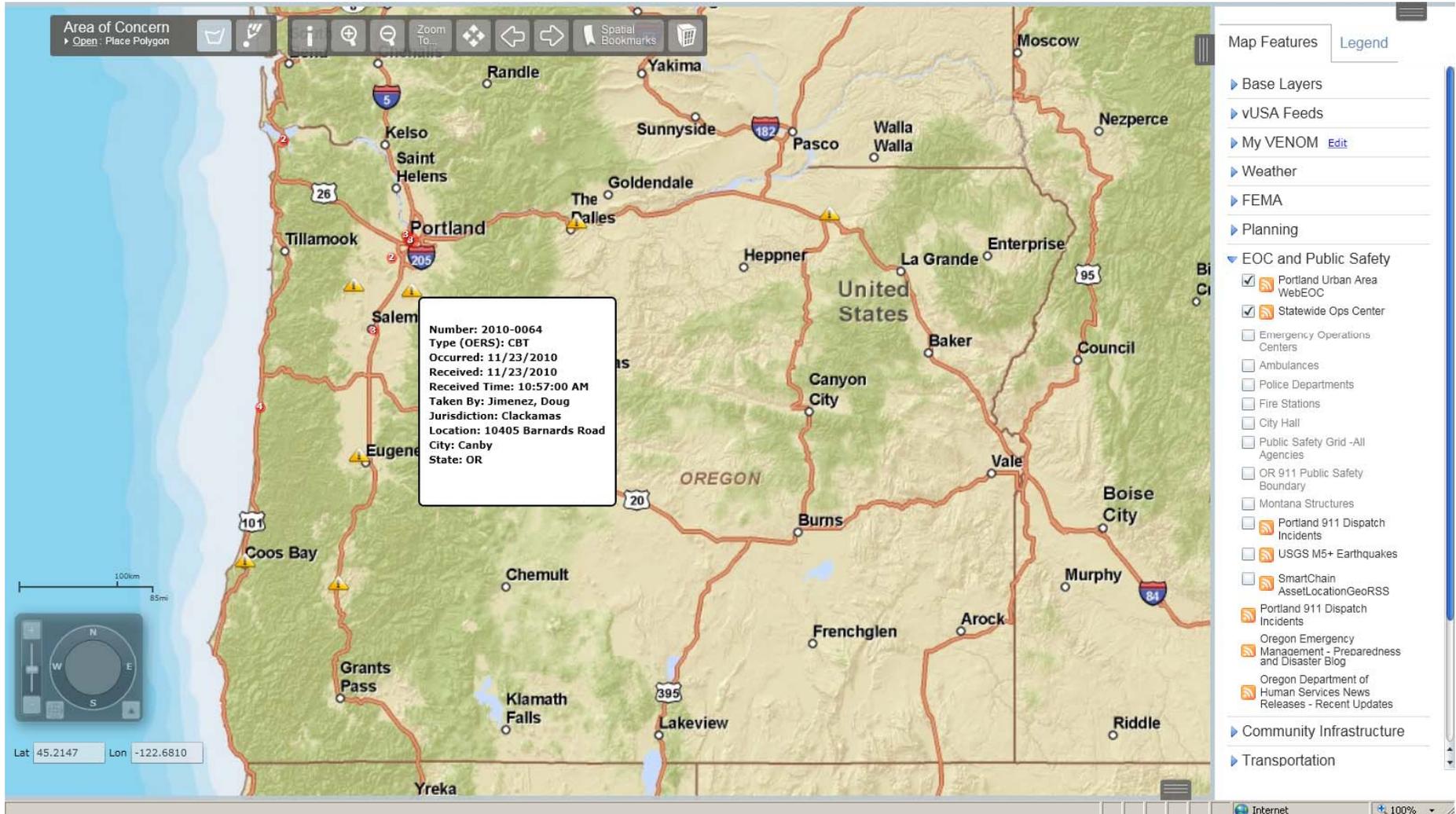
VENOM - Transportation Cameras



Homeland
Security



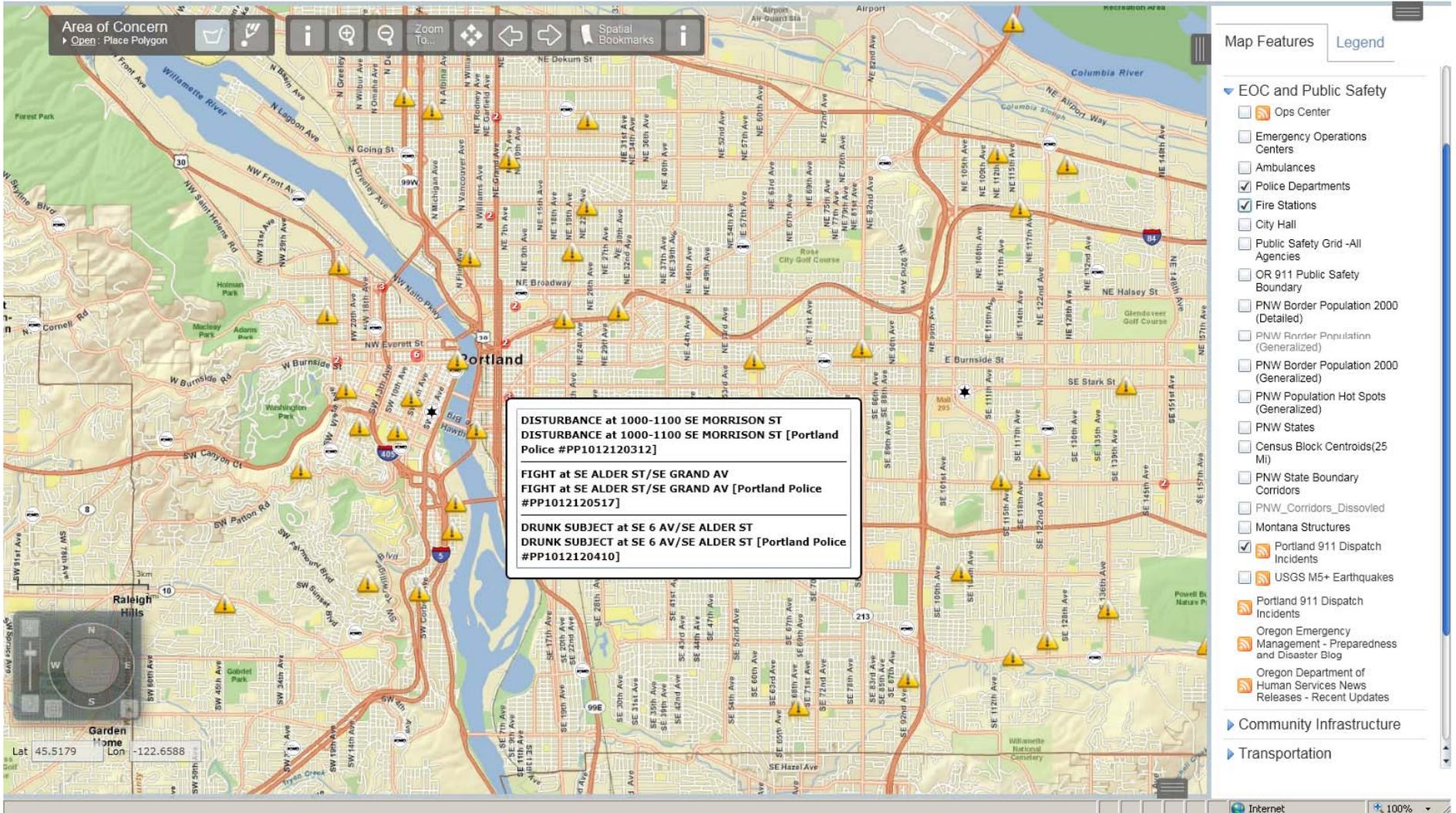
VENOM - OpsCenter & WebEOC Feeds



Homeland Security



VENOM - Portland 911 Dispatch Incidents

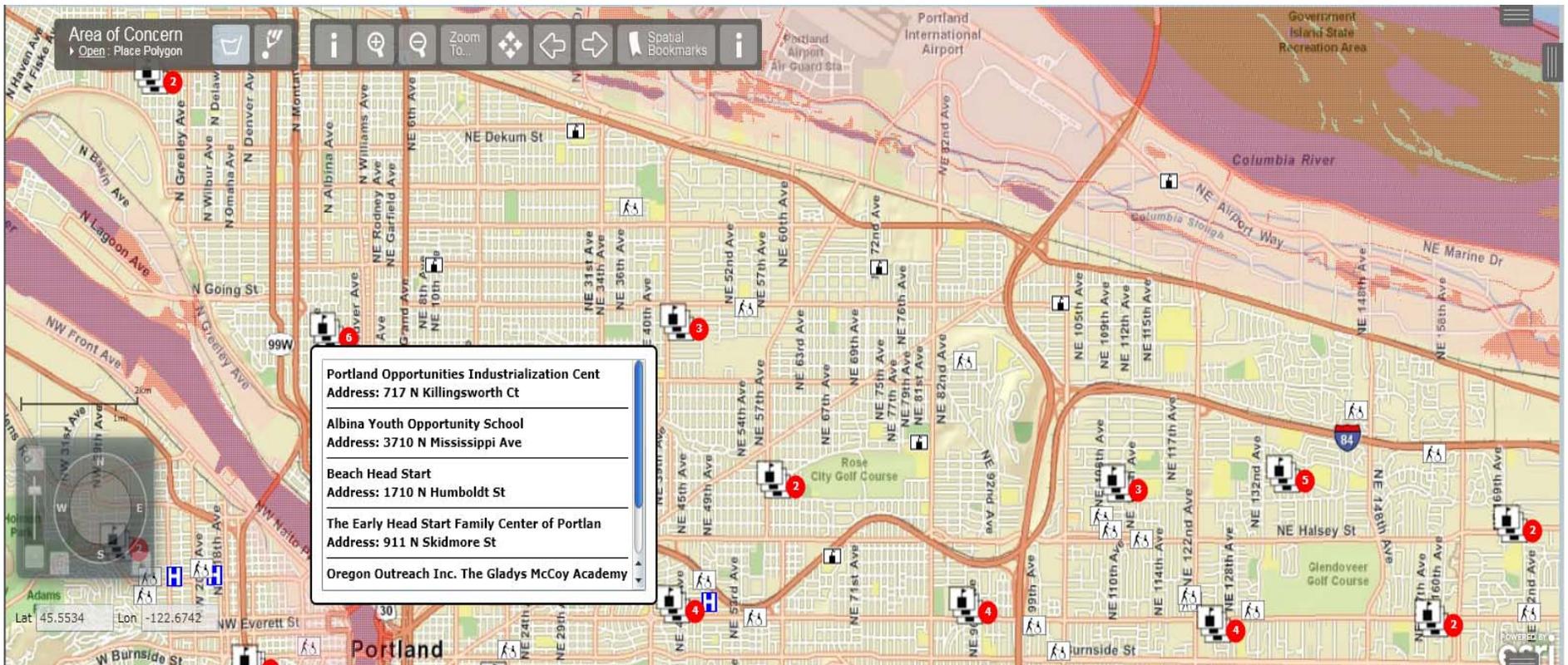


Homeland Security



VENOM - FEMA General Flood Zones

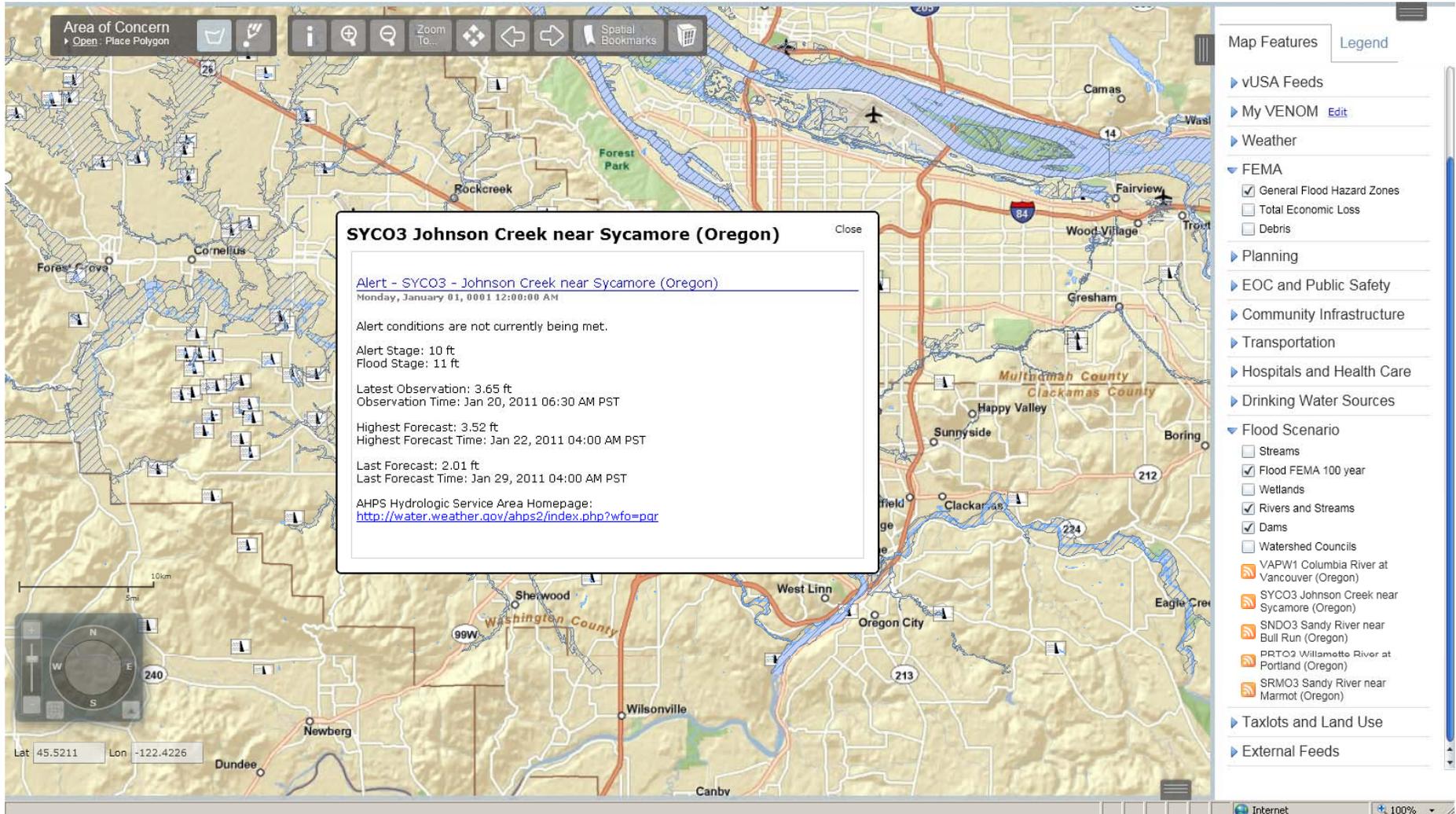
Schools, Hospitals, Extended Care Homes



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VENOM – Floods/River Gauges



Homeland Security



VENOM – Floods/River Gauges



National Weather Service
Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service

Home
News
Organization

Guide to Hydrologic Information on the Web. To open PDF click here.

ALERT!! A **Avalanche Warning** and **Flood Warning** are in effect for portions of the area. **View all valid statements/warnings** or choose a specific point or river to get the details for that location.

Weather Forecast Office Portland, OR

Local weather forecast by "City, ST"

Adjacent Areas:



National Conditions
Rivers
Satellite
Climate
Observed Precip

Local Conditions
Warnings
Weather Forecast Radar

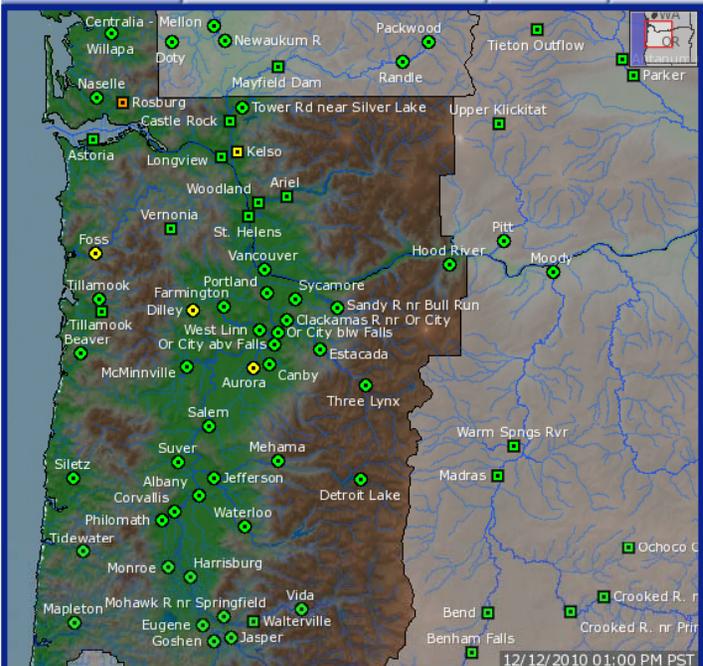
AHPS Documentation
User Guide
User Brochure

What is AHPS?
Facts
Our Partners

Feedback/Questions
Provide Feedback
Ask Questions




River Observations River Forecasts Within 48 Hours Precipitation Download



71 Total Gauges 1 Location in flood

Print / Save Map

Map Legend

- Hydrograph Available
- Probability and Hydrograph Available
- Major Flooding
- Moderate Flooding
- Minor Flooding
- Near Flood Stage
- No Flooding
- Observation More Than 24 Hours Old
- Out of Service

Topo Gauges Counties States Major Rivers Other Rivers Highways Cities
 HSA Names Names Names

RSS



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VENOM - Planning Tool

The screenshot displays the VENOM - Planning Tool interface. The main map shows a geographic area around Gresham, Oregon, with various planning layers overlaid. A yellow line indicates a 'ROAD CLOSED' area near Wood Village. A red cross symbol is located on E Hobann Dr. A blue square is also visible on the map. The interface includes a toolbar with navigation and editing tools, a legend, and a sidebar menu.

Map Features

- Legend
- Base Layers
 - Road Map
 - Satellite Map
 - Imagery Map
- Plans
 - Planning Points
 - Planning Lines
 - Planning Areas
- FEMA
- EOC and Public Safety
- Community Infrastructure
- Transportation
- Hospitals and Health Care
- Drinking Water Sources
- Flood Scenario
- Taxlots and Land Use



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VENOM - Planning Tool/vUSA My Library

The screenshot displays the VIRTUAL USA My Library interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Home', 'VIRTUAL USA', and 'Libraries Directory Inbox FlexViewer EarthViewer'. Below this, the 'Libraries' section is active, showing a list of feeds under the 'My Library' tab. The list includes various feeds such as 'NWS SYCO3 Johnson Creek 3 Sycamore (Oregon)', 'NWS SDO3 Sandy River 3 Bull Run (Oregon)', and 'FEMA - Federal Disaster Declarations'. A 'Quick Links' sidebar on the right offers options like 'Point Link', 'Upload File', 'Chat', and 'Comments'.

Below the feed list is a map of the Gresham area in Oregon. A yellow line on the map indicates a 'ROAD CLOSED' on SE Orient Dr. The map shows major roads like NE Prescott St, NE 148th Ave, and SE Stark St, along with landmarks like Reed Island State Park and Powell Butte Nature Park. The map features a legend and 'Map Features' on the right side, including 'imagery map' and 'vUSA Feeds'.

The 'vUSA Feeds' list on the right includes:

- SYCO3 Johnson Creek near Sycamore (Oregon)
- SND03 Sandy River near Bull Run (Oregon)
- PRTO3 Willamette River at Portland (Oregon)
- VAPW1 Columbia River at Vancouver (Oregon)
- Current Watches, Warnings and Advisories for Oregon Issued by the National Weather Service
- Oregon - Current Hydrologic Alerts - NWS AHPS
- Oregon - Current Hydrologic Forecasts - NWS AHPS
- USGS M5+ Earthquakes
- FEMA: Federal Disaster Declarations
- FEMA: Oregon Federal Disaster Declarations
- FEMA: National Situation Updates
- FEMA: Region X News Releases
- CDC Emergency Preparedness and Response: Recent Outbreaks and Incidents
- Planning Points
- Planning Lines
- Planning Areas

At the bottom of the map interface, there are links for 'My VENOM' and 'Edit', and a 'Weather' link.



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vUSA Generation III - Oregon Planning Tool Access

Home Welcome, Sean McSpaden | My Profile | Help | Admin | Logout

VIRTUAL USA

Libraries Directory Inbox FlexViewer EarthViewer Resources

Flex Viewer
VIRTUAL USA Viewer for Gen 3 Data Resources

vUSA Gen 3 Library
Login: mcspadens Password: ***** Refresh 61 Items (My Library)

My Library Common Data Partner Keywords

Maps GeoRSS / Feeds HTML Links / Web Apps Shared Documents

Status	Content Type	Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	ArcGIS REST	***TEST Feed #2*** Population Density
<input type="checkbox"/>	ArcGIS REST	Kentucky Traffic Cameras
<input type="checkbox"/>	ArcGIS REST	***TEST*** NOAA Weather Services
<input type="checkbox"/>	ArcGIS REST	Idaho Traffic Cameras
<input type="checkbox"/>	WMS	River Gauges
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ArcGIS REST	State of Oregon/VENOM Planning Layer
<input type="checkbox"/>	ArcGIS REST	VENOM Transportation Service
<input type="checkbox"/>	ArcGIS REST	VENOM Flood Scenario
<input type="checkbox"/>	ArcGIS REST	VENOM Hospitals & Healthcare

Latitude: 31.516125 Longitude: -117.106523

Planning Tool Access by ANY other Viewer

CUSEC Viewer
Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium

Map navigation controls: More..., Streets, Aerial, Topo

Map content: United States, various cities, and a highlighted region in the central US.

MUSA Con 3 Library
Login: mrcspadens Password: ***** Refresh 61 Items (My Library)

My Library Common Data Partner Keywords

Maps GeoRSS / Feeds HTML Links / Web Apps Shared Documents

Status	Content Type	Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	ArcGIS REST	***TEST Feed #2*** Population Density
<input type="checkbox"/>	ArcGIS REST	Kentucky Traffic Cameras
<input type="checkbox"/>	ArcGIS REST	***TEST*** NOAA Weather Services
<input type="checkbox"/>	ArcGIS REST	Idaho Traffic Cameras
<input type="checkbox"/>	WMS	River Gauges
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ArcGIS REST	State of Oregon/VENOM Planning Layer
<input type="checkbox"/>	ArcGIS REST	VENOM Transportation Service
<input type="checkbox"/>	ArcGIS REST	VENOM Flood Scenario
<input type="checkbox"/>	ArcGIS REST	VENOM Hospitals & Healthcare

Scale: 1000 km, 500 mi

esri POWERED BY

Done Internet 100%



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State/Federal Government Partnerships



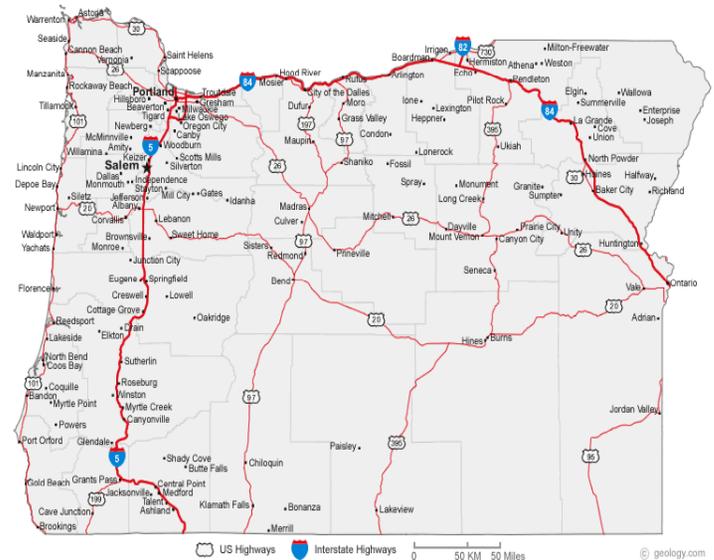
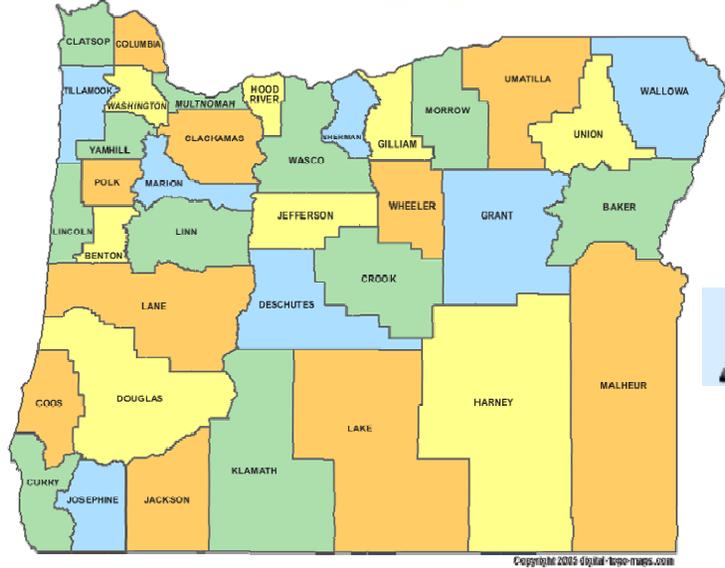
FEMA



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VIRTUAL USA 

Tribal/State/Local Government Partnerships



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vUSA PNW Pilot Lessons Learned

- State infrastructure essential to successful pilots
 - Developing base data/technology infrastructure for over 10 years and couldn't have developed VENOM or other COPs without it.
- Cross-jurisdictional and cross-disciplinary leadership essential to pilot and successful transition to operations
- Within each state and across the nation legislative support is necessary to make data sharing work
 - State Legislatures and Congress must get the message that data sharing is essential to efficient and effective government.
- We'll always be in a multi-viewer environment and we must develop our COPs with that in mind
 - Must use open file formats so that data can be accessed and shared natively within whatever viewer is being used.
 - Try to avoid user having to search multiple libraries that are only accessible externally from the viewer.



vUSA PNW Pilot Lessons Learned

- Concept of Common Operating Picture for Emergency Management/Response can be extended to all other areas of Government
- Need to develop multiple capabilities and offerings
 - Viewer, data catalog, widget/applet
- vUSA was catalyst for developing and expanding partnerships.
- We need to dramatically expand/accelerate our partnership with FEMA and see vUSA as a platform to do that.
- vUSA is a great program and model for federal, state, local partnerships because it's not a top down mandate, but a true partnership.
 - We need more federal programs that share that same philosophy.



The Flooded River....



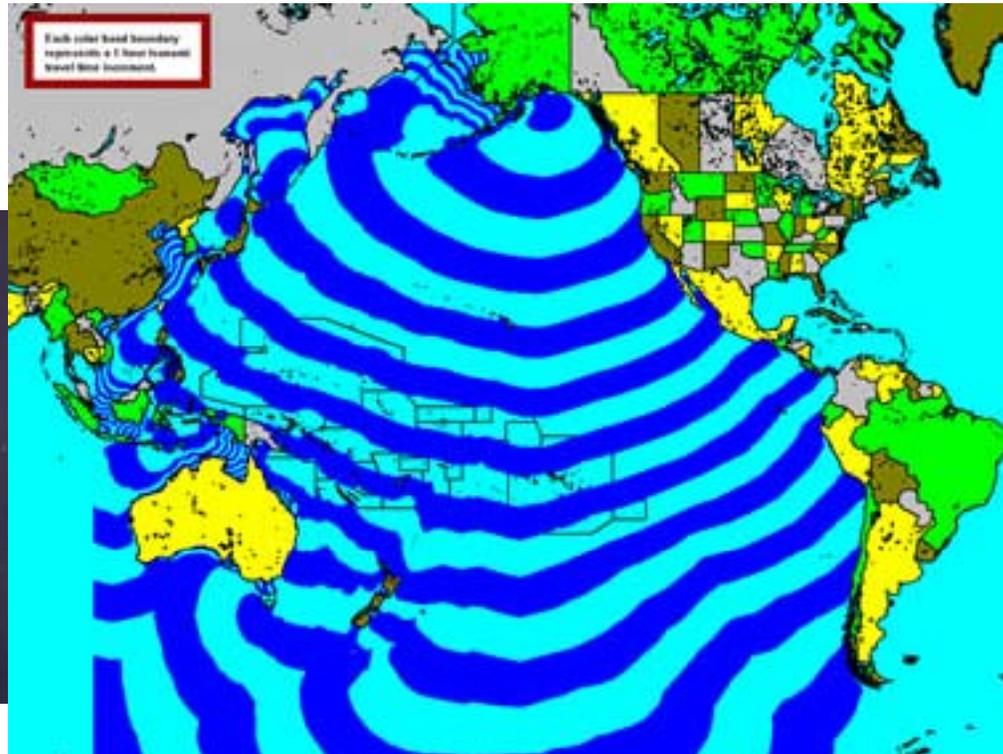
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Primary Lessons Learned

- It's about more than a Map.
- It's about relationships, partnerships and collaboration
- It's about the information we share with one another to protect lives, property and the environment ... AND
- Don't forget the practitioner!
- Remember who the Common Operating Picture is supposed to serve!



Tsunami Planning and Response



Travel time map for a tsunami triggered by a subduction zone earthquake off the southern coast of Alaska. Each color band is a one-hour travel time increment. Image by NOAA



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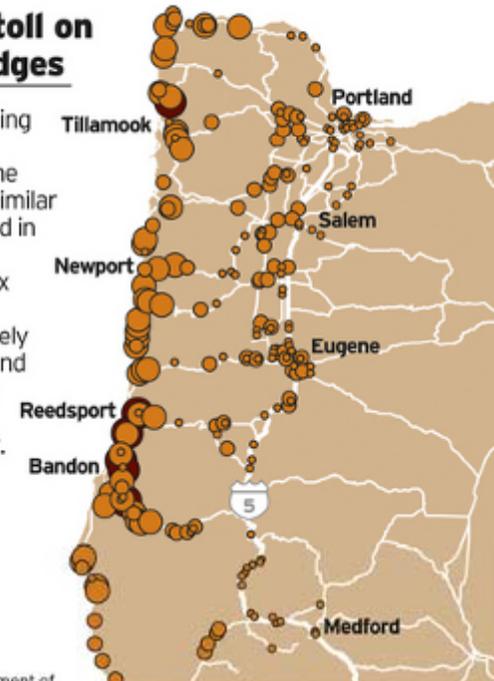
The Great Earthquake of 2xxx



A quake's toll on Oregon bridges

Computer modeling shows a 9.0 earthquake off the Oregon coast – similar to what happened in January 1700 – would collapse six major highway bridges, extensively damage others and cost \$1 billion for bridge repair and replacement.

- Slight
- Moderate
- Extensive
- Collapse



Source: Oregon Department of Transportation/Portland State University

STEVE COWDEN/THE OREGONIAN

The Cascadia subduction zone last experienced a great earthquake in 1700 and so may be only about halfway through its ~600-year earthquake cycle.



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Flood Response



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Fire Response



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Hazmat Response

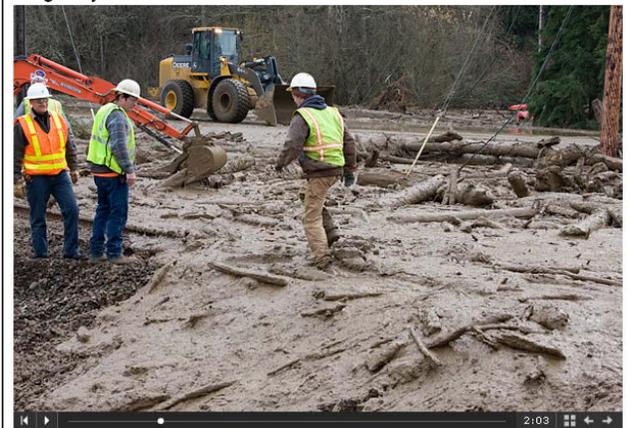


Security

Winter Storm Response



Highway 30 Mudslide



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Police, Fire & EMS Dispatch



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A Decade of Preparation

- Building Strong Relationships
 - Federal, Regional, Tribal, State, and Local Government
- Building Capacity
 - Skilled Professionals
 - GIS Technologies
- Building and providing access to Relevant Datasets
 - Geospatial Data Development and Stewardship
- Preparing for this moment in history. The moment has come.....



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Virtual USA

Video (3 min)

URL: <http://www.firstresponder.gov/Pages/VirtualUSA.aspx>



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Contact Information

Sean McSpaden, Oregon - Deputy State Chief Information Officer

Phone: 503-378-5257

Email: Sean.L.McSpaden@state.or.us

If you would like more information on Virtual USA, please contact

VirtualUSA@DHS.GOV

- Virtual Alabama Video: 3:44
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a-1I0JTWiY&>
OR: http://dhs.alabama.gov/virtual_alabama/home.aspx
- VIPER Video: 5:37
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tdfhz90rlcl&feature=related>
- Virtual USA Video: 3:07
<http://www.firstresponder.gov/Pages/VirtualUSA.aspx>



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