Cross-Agency Sharing of Government Data
Using AGOL Groups

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Prior to ArcGIS Online

INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION:

- Calling, emailing and physically transporting data to each other
- Difficulty assessing who had what data, or who had produced what maps – led to overlap and duplication of efforts
- Inability to share live, dynamic mapping resources during active disasters or events

Needed a better way!
Since ArcGIS Online

**INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION:**
- Ability to rapidly share information during events
- Clear visibility on existing data and map products
- Reduced duplication of efforts

**AGOL GROUPS:**
- Best way to organize maps and data based on event
- Easy to control who has access, keeping sensitive information secure
  Ex: Boston Marathon AGOL Group: 200+ members from ~50 agencies (from local towns to the Secret Service!)
- Can be created just for the purpose of pushing information back and forth (instead of a file sharing service)
Common Operating Data

- AGOL Groups: Structure for establishing Common Operating Data

- By design the requirements for a “Common Operating Picture” are not always consistent across agencies and different tiers of government
  - Level of detail required differs with tiers of government
  - Types of information required differs across agencies based on operational requirements

- Each agency or tier of government can achieve their COP by consuming and analyzing the relevant data to visualize as appropriate for their mission
  - Not a copy, update, or snapshot; Agencies using the **same** data
Hurricane Planning

- Interagency collaboration
- Federal planning data
- State planning data
- Response products

FEMA scenario data vs. MA planning data
Nuclear Power Plants

- Multiple states involved
- Used for exercises
- Ready for event

Common access for cross border response
Boston Marathon

- Many facets of government
- Common Operating Data
- Access controlled by AHJ

Ops Dashboard: Common Operating Picture
Cause III Experiment

- International experiment
- Canada & USA
- US Federal Agencies
- US States
- US Cities

Browser based dashboard for cross border event
Regional Data Sharing

- Topic specific
- Members contribute
- Contents public
- Searchable via Open Data
  - Use or replicate common tags
- Isolate development maps
  - Publish consumer sharing specific maps

State and federal data contributors
Best Practices

1. Define tiers of sharing
   - Internal to the organization
   - Trusted partners
   - Public

2. Establish relationships and build groups now

3. Promote the Groups internally as well as externally

4. Keep momentum from “Proof of Concept” to Standard Procedure

5. For groups with sensitive information: Keep detailed log of each member, their agency and their contact information. Verify user identity and role.