

Cross-Agency Sharing of Government Data Using AGOL Groups

June 30, 2016



Chad Council

Regional Geospatial Coordinator
Response Division, FEMA Region I
chad.council@fema.dhs.gov



Desiree L. Kocis, GISP

GIS Coordinator
Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
desiree.kocis@state.ma.us



Michael A. Domingue, LtCol

JFHQ-NH J5/Geospatial Manager
New Hampshire National Guard

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)



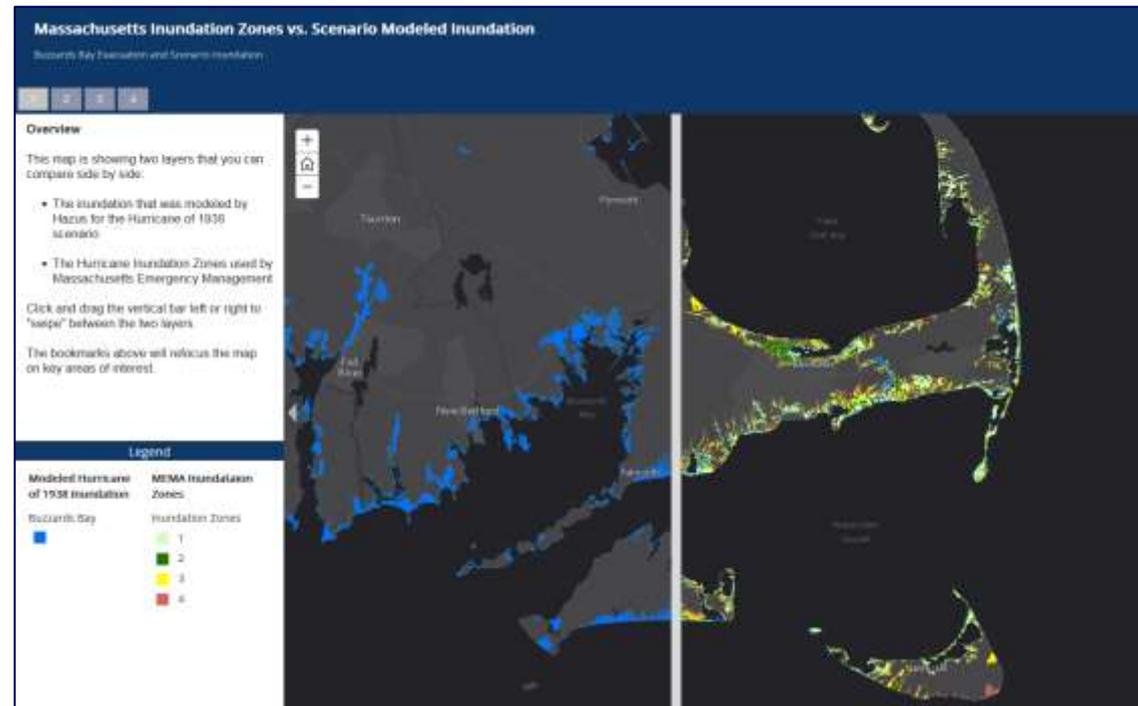
Common Operating Data

- 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

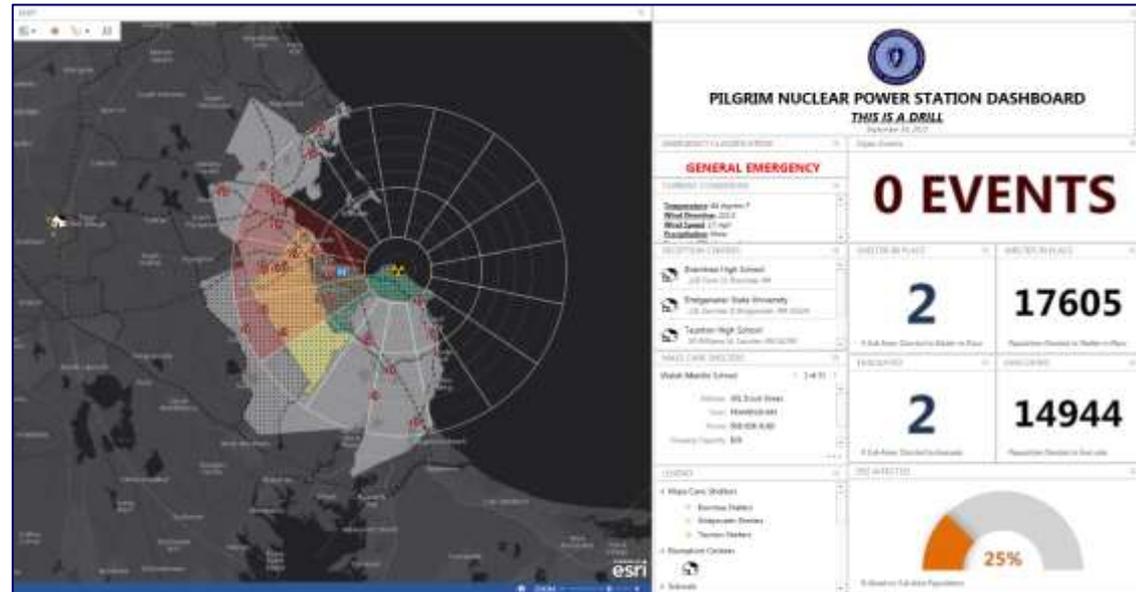
- Interagency collaboration
- Federal planning data
- State planning data
- Response products



FEMA scenario data vs. MA planning data

Nuclear Power Plants

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

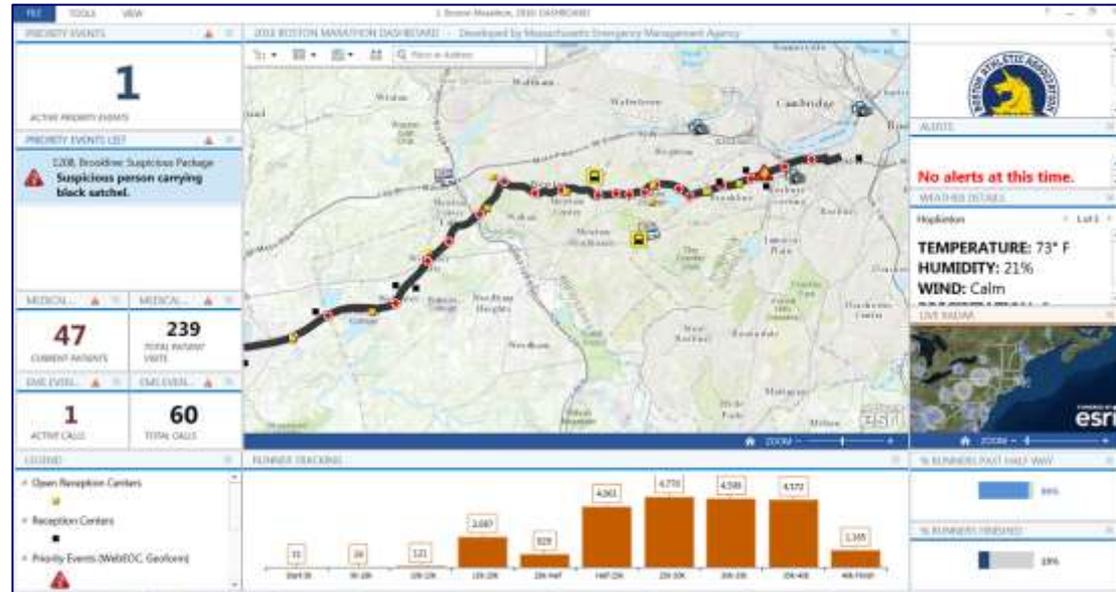


Common access for cross border response



Boston Marathon

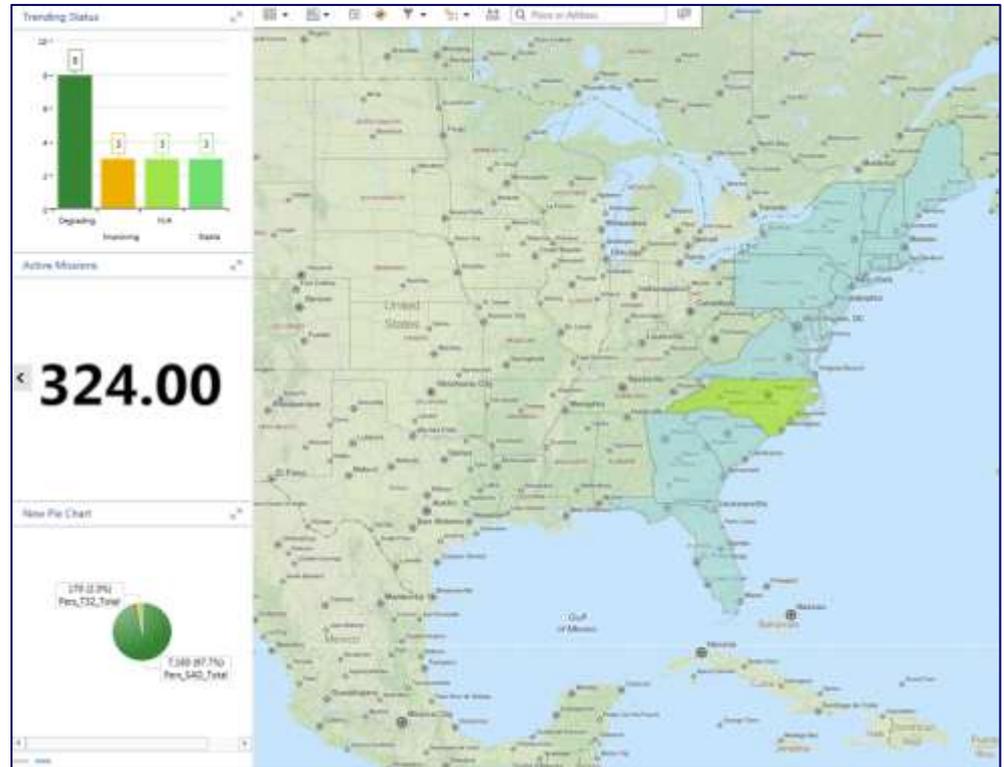
- Many facets of government
- Common Operating **Data**
- Access controlled by AHJ



Ops Dashboard: Common Operating Picture

Cause III Experiment

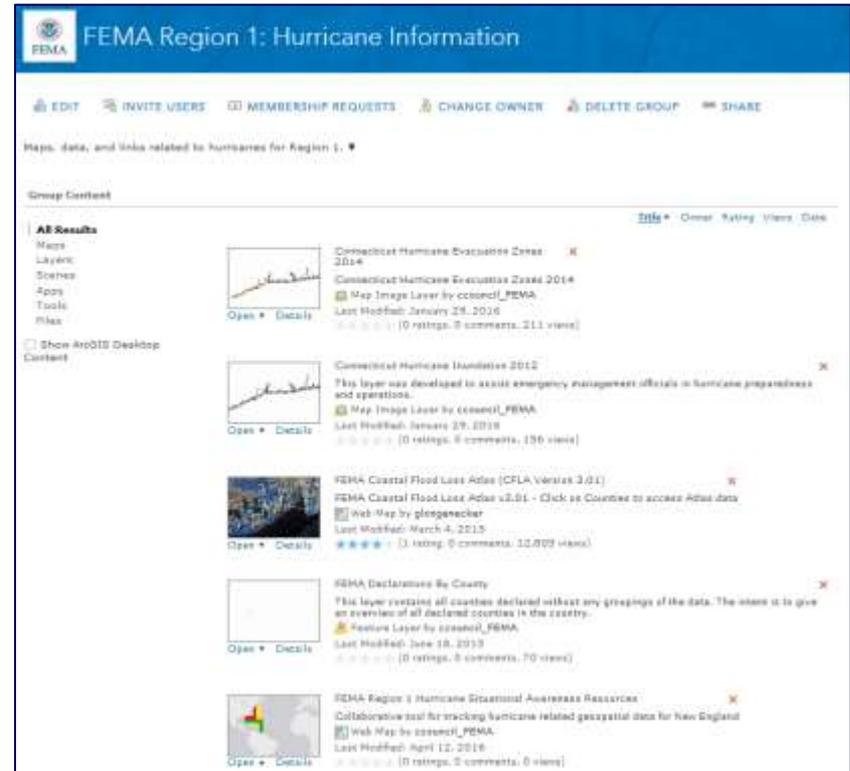
- International experiment
- Canada & USA
- US Federal Agencies
- US States
- US Cities



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.

