

Partners in Safety: Leveraging GIS for Emergency Response with Public Private Partnerships

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September 25, 2012



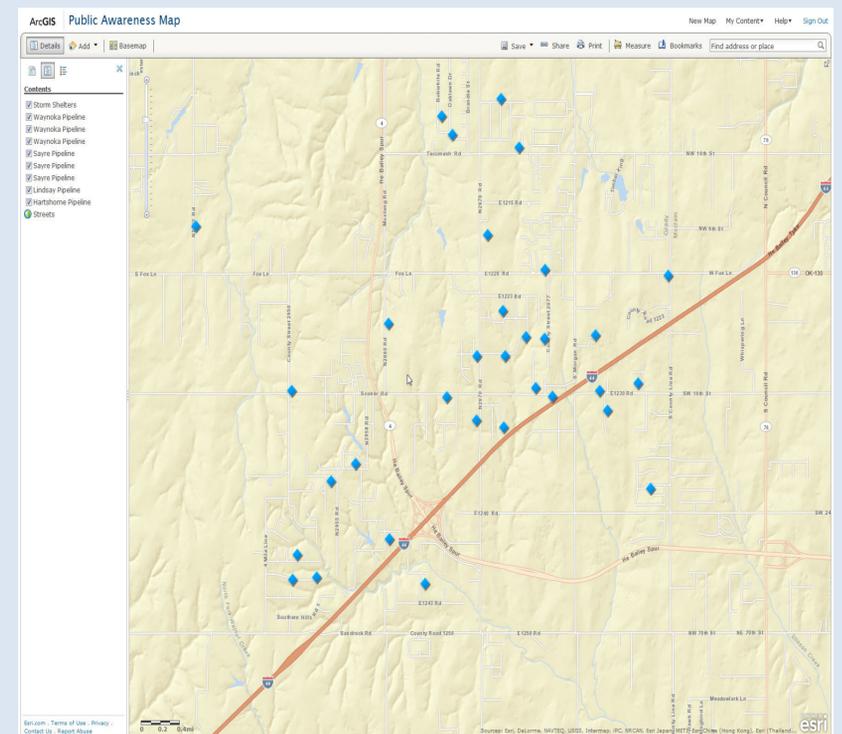
Introduction

Access Midstream recognizes that pipeline safety is crucial to protecting local communities. An important element of preparedness is arming emergency responders with the tools and information needed to manage an emergency situation should one arise. GIS is an important tool in preparing for, planning for and responding to such situations. They can provide details about resource allocation, risk analysis, incident predictability, strategic response and post-incident analysis.

Pilot Project

Earlier this year, Access Midstream began working with local Fire Departments to provide GIS and mapping support. Bridgecreek Fire Department is a volunteer organization and expressed that they needed assistance with GIS and Mapping Technology. Access Midstream met with the Volunteer Firefighters to determine their needs, including: What is the emergency, where is it, how do I get there, where is water and are there any obstacles. Providing an accurate, up-to-date picture of buried facilities in each jurisdiction is also very important. Our goal is to provide support to emergency responders regardless of resource level, location or organization size. The program will offer emergency response training and help each organization find the GIS Tools that best meet its needs.

We started with a very simple web app hosted on ArcGIS Online. We created a private group and added users from the Council on Firefighter Training (COFT) and Bridgecreek Fire Department. We received storm shelter information from Bridgecreek and geocoded their addresses and added the shelters to the web app. Users identify the shelter points to get the home owner's name, address and the location of the shelter in the house. We also provided locations of our assets. To load those into the app, we had to save them as shapefiles and break out the features to no more than 1000 per shapefile. We added Data about accurate, up-to-date buried facilities, with company contact information, is also provided. We are planning on adding more data in the future, as it becomes available. Ultimately, we would like to create a more robust web app that will provide all the information they need to respond to an emergency. That includes having additional information from other companies and agencies.



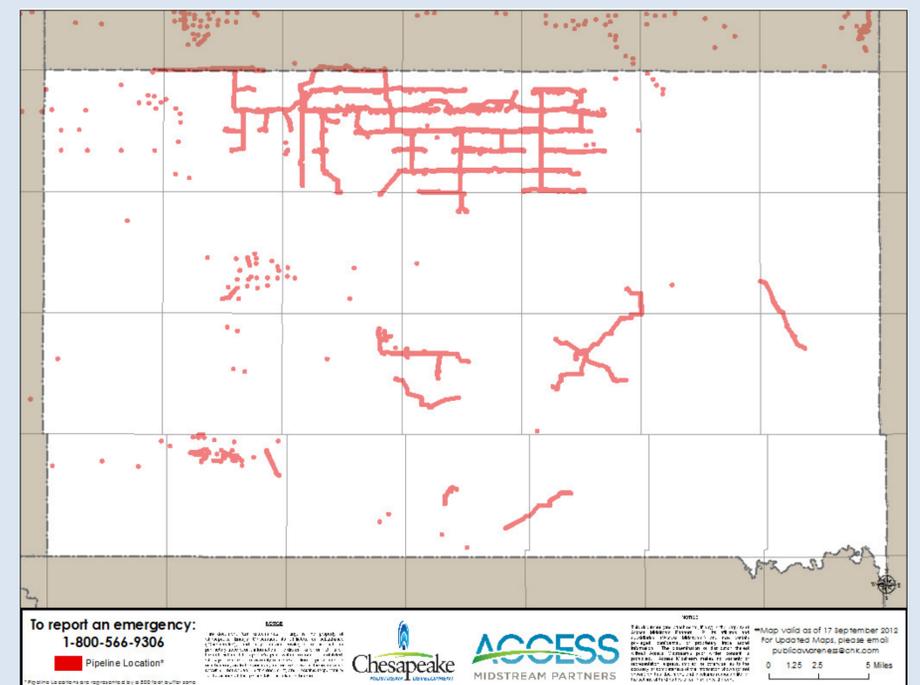
Web application hosted on ArcGIS online showing storm shelter locations in Bridgecreek, OK

Access Midstream currently provides hard copy maps of our assets to all emergency response agencies that request the information. These maps are useful for emergency response pre-planning and incident command. Emergency responders use maps every day, but paper maps are only as good as the date printed. Paper maps from multiple companies also cause an issue of confusion and information overload when multiple companies across several industries provide numerous maps for responders to sort through. Managing scattered maps during an emergency situation is a logistical nightmare.

For this reason, Access Midstream is committed to working with local and state emergency response agencies to develop a fully integrated GIS for referencing and managing real-time GIS data. Not only is the information more easily accessible, it is also more accurate and more timely. GIS and mobile technology allow maps to always be at the fingertips of those that need them most. The project is currently in the design stages as we continue to collect requirements and requests from various response agencies.

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Example of a hardcopy map given to emergency response agency.