



2014 Annual Report

2014 was a very active year for the NISC, its partners, and NISC member organizations. Highlights from January - December 2014 are provided below.

CAPSTONE 2014

In June 2014, the NISC provided support to the CAPSTONE-14 exercise, a three-year, multi-state scope of planning and preparedness activities that culminated in a major, multi-state earthquake exercise. Under direction of the Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC) Board of Directors, the exercise was completed in support of Presidential Policy Directive 8 (PPD8) and built off of lessons learned during the 2011 National Level Exercise (NLE-11). The exercise was designed to strengthen partnerships between local, state, and federal governments, while engaging public and private sector entities in planning response and recovery from a catastrophic earthquake occurring within the New Madrid Seismic Zone (NMSZ). Included in the initiative were both CUSEC Member and Associate States.

Specifically, the NISC's support of the exercise involved the following:

- Executing the testing of ArcGIS Online and creation of web applications
- Identifying multi-sector essential elements of information
- Contributing to standardization of technical requirements and operational workflows
- Enhancing mutual aid mechanism at the state and provincial levels

The NISC drafted an after action report (AAR) that examined the role and use of technology during the exercise. Feedback was gathered from exercise participants on the technologies they used in the event. The AAR was published in September 2014.

CAPSTONE 2014 - <http://www.nisconsortium.org/partner-highlights/capstone-14/>

NISC ByLaws and 501(c)(3) tax exempt status

The NISC Board of Directors revised and adopted the current NISC Bylaws on February 11, 2014.

On August 8, 2014, the NISC obtained its tax-exempt status as a 501(c)(3) public charity organization from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), allowing tax deductible donations to be made to the NISC.

Sunset of the Virtual Library - transition to the vUSA ArcGIS Online Common Library

On **September 30, 2014**, the Virtual USA® Virtual Library was decommissioned based on feedback from five years of Virtual USA pilots, the three-year CAPSTONE-14 Earthquake Exercise process, and multiple rounds of input from stakeholders.

The US Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate's First Responder's Group (FRG) and the National Information Sharing Consortium (NISC) worked with practitioner stakeholders to identify ways to expand upon the library's capabilities to target today's needs of organization-to-organization sharing. To that end, the NISC investigated and

tested various methods of information sharing, beginning with the establishment of a “Common Library” Group using Esri’s ArcGIS Online and related tools that facilitate access to and discovery of public information and web maps. Additionally, related apps that were developed to improve discovery of public information created and published in Esri’s ArcGIS Online across the platform’s user base were made available through the NISC and were posted on www.firstresponder.gov.

NISC Virtual USA: <http://www.nisconsortium.org/nisc-activities/virtual-usa-2/>

White House Incident Management Information Sharing Subcommittee (IMIS-SC)

The inaugural Incident Management Information Sharing Subcommittee (IMIS-SC) meeting took place on June 10, 2014. The IMIS-SC is co-chaired by the NISC and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Science & Technology Directorate's First Responders Group (DHS S&T FRG). The Subcommittee is supported by the White House Program Manager for the Information Sharing Environment. The IMIS-SC will provide advice and policy recommendations on ways to standardize information sharing during incident management from local, state, tribal, and federal perspectives. It will also play an integral role in informing DHS S&T's Virtual USA® Program (vUSA) activities. Additional meetings of the Subcommittee were scheduled and held late in 2014.

- <http://www.nisconsortium.org/incident-management-information-sharing-subcommittee-imis-sc/>

Esri NSS and UC

In July 2014, NISC Directors, staff, and many members attended Esri's 2014 National Security Summit and 2014 Users Conference. They raised awareness about the organization and invited many new members to join. NISC Directors and members spoke in a variety of workshops and sessions on topics ranging from information sharing best practices for public safety, NISC involvement in CAPSTONE-14 and CAUSE, and lessons learned in the field. Presentations can be found on the NISC website.

NISC Presentations and Videos - <http://www.nisconsortium.org/nisc-events/nisc-presentations/>

CAUSE III

The Canada-U.S. Enhanced Resiliency Experiment (CAUSE) is ongoing. CAUSE III is scheduled to occur this fall and will focus on two scenarios- a powerful tropical storm on the East Coast and a wildfire in the central plains. A story map that describes CAUSE III focus areas can be found on the NISC website - http://184.73.165.29/demo/CAUSEIII/story_map.html

Private Sector Symposium

On September 3-4 2014, the NISC hosted its Private Sector Symposium, which involved the private sector business that were involved in CAPSTONE-14. The group discussed the concept of nationalizing a virtual Business Operations Center, focusing on governance needs and the critical aspects of building a viable business case. The NISC will continue the dialogue with this group and other private sector businesses that would like be part of the dialogue.

Membership

From January - December 2014, NISC membership grew from sixty-four (64) to seventy-seven (77) members representing 100+ state and local government, civilian and military, tribal government, academic, non-governmental and private industry partner organizations across the US and Canada.

NISC Members

- NISC members, are able to:
 - Network with key leaders in homeland security, public safety, emergency management, and first response
 - Conserve resources by sharing code, data, systems, and services
 - Bolster capacity with collaborative partnerships with other members
 - Influence the future of public safety and emergency management by conveying practitioner needs to national policymakers
- The NISC member portal, allows members to:
 - Connect with other members through the NISC's detailed member directory
 - Collaborate with peers in NISC online forums
 - Share documents, data, and code – and access information shared by others!
 - Share expertise through NISC members-only publications
- NISC members can join mission-specific working groups seeking improvements in fields of:
 - Mutual aid
 - Technology interoperability
 - Private sector integration

Sponsorship

At the end of 2013, the NISC finalized its *Corporate Sponsorship Guide*, which detailed benefits involved in NISC membership and several tiers of corporate sponsorship packages. Corporate sponsors enjoy the following benefits:

- Networking opportunities with NISC members
- Focus groups with practitioners coordinated by the NISC
- Complimentary membership
- Complimentary or discounted registration at NISC events

Corporate Sponsorship guide - 2013-2014: <https://goo.gl/KT7hpY>

NISC Webinars

The NISC continued to conduct a series of member/partner driven webinars:

- February 20, 2014 - NISC 2014--Get Involved!" Webinar- Charles Werner, NISC Chair, Chief, Charlottesville, VA Fire Department; Jeff Dulin, NISC Treasurer, Deputy Fire Chief, Charlotte, NC Fire Department; Barney Krucoff, NISC Director, GIO, MD Department of Information Technology; Richard Butgereit, GIS Administrator, Information Management, FL Division of Emergency Management; Tommy Hicks, Assistant Executive Director, International Association of Fire Chief
- April 17, 2014 - Mutual Aid: Tools and Technologies to Discover, Request, Acquire, and Track Resources" Webinar - Carol Walton, Chair of EMAC Executive Task Force, EMAC National Coordinating State, and Operations Branch Manager at Arkansas Department of Emergency Management; Doug Eades, Systems Integration Manager, Kentucky Emergency Management; Tommy Hicks, Assistant Executive Director, International Association of Fire Chiefs
- May 20, 2014 "Mobile Apps for Public Safety" Webinar -- Jeff Cohen, Chief Counsel, Director of Government Relations, APCO; Jay English, Director, Comm. Center/ 9-1-1 Services, APCO; Alex Kreilein, Office of Emergency Communications, DHS; Eddie Reyes, Deputy Chief, Alexandria (VA) Police Department
- July 15, 2014 - "Information Sharing for Public Safety: CUSEC's CAPSTONE-14 as a Case Study" -- Mike Stehn, Manager Applications Development, Illinois Emergency Management; Doug Eades, Systems Integration Manager, Kentucky Emergency Management; Tommy Hodge, Information Technology Director, Tennessee Emergency Management; Debbie Briedwell, GIS Specialist, Missouri Department of Public Safety
- July 16, 2014 -The Canada-U.S. Enhanced Resiliency Experiment (CAUSE): Cross-border Information Sharing for Public Safety - Phillip Dawe, Multi-Agency Crisis Management S&T, Canadian Safety & Security Program, Defence R&D Canada's Centre for Security Science; Dan Cotter, Chief Technology Officer, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Science & Technology Directorate
- July 24, 2014 - Applying Technologies to Enable Effective Decision Making - Mike Stehn, Manager Applications Development, Illinois Emergency Management; Doug Eades, Systems Integration Manager, Kentucky Emergency Management; Tommy Hodge, Information Technology Director, Tennessee Emergency Management; Debbie Briedwell, GIS Specialist, Missouri Department of Public Safety
- August 26, 2014 - Public-Private Coordination in Emergency Response and Recovery - Jon Monken, Director, Illinois Emergency Management Agency; Edie Casella, Project Administrator, Illinois Emergency Management Agency; James Williams, Manager, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Walgreens; Brooke Brager, Senior Manager, Emergency Planning and Preparedness, Walmart; Michael Marx, Manager, Utility Operations Response, Ameren
- October 23, 2014 - Detecting and Monitoring Disease and Illness Outbreaks - Dr. Michael Jung, Medical Officer, Influenza Division, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, HHS; Dr. Teresa Quitugua, Deputy Director, National Biosurveillance Integration Center, Office of Health Affairs, DHS; Lt. Cody Thornton, Program Manager, U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) Div. of International Health Security, ASPR, HHS

Past NISC Events: <http://www.nisconsortium.org/nisc-events/past-events-and-presentations/>