



Mobile Data Initiative

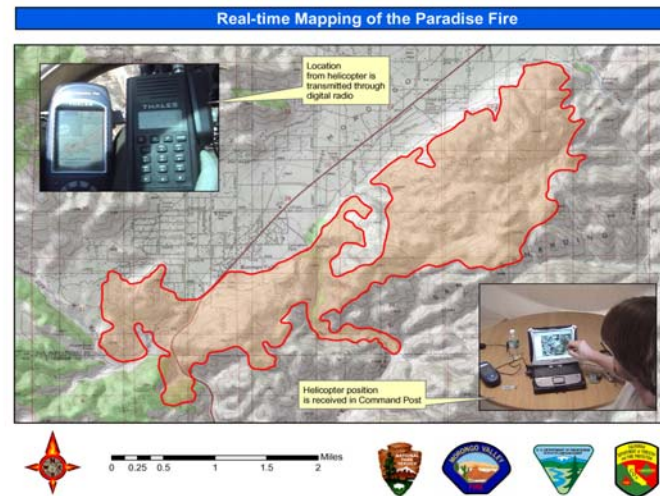
Use of Project 25 Wireless Data Link for Mobile Data Collection and Display

This initiative was for the NPS NISC-GISD (National Information Systems Center, GIS Division) to investigate a wireless link to transmit textual data between a field unit to either another field or a base unit. Data can be in the form of a simple latitude / longitude location of the field unit, form captured data or text messaging. Textural data to and from the field unit will be used either on a handheld, laptop, workstation or tablet device in conjunction with spatial data. Data is secure and useable in off-the-shelf software.

This initiative was in direct support of the Incident Management, Analysis and Reporting System (IMARS) and the Facilities Management Software System (FMSS) initiatives.

Other potential users include :

- Law Enforcement and Visitor Protection for situational awareness during emergency operations. It could provide for efficient communications via text messaging and could provide real-time movement of small amounts of forms data.
- Back-country Rangers for an added level of safety during day-to-day operations by providing real-time positioning and monitoring of personnel locations.
- Fire for real-time situation awareness providing safe and efficient movement and use of assets. Text messaging could make communications more efficient.
- Search and Rescue to provide Incident Command with real-time situation awareness and searched areas. This can prove critical and potentially lifesaving.
- Flight Following for aircraft monitoring



Real-Time Mapping of the Paradise Fire near Joshua Tree NP (graphic courtesy of Tom Patterson, BLM).

to provide increased safety and efficiency.

- Cultural resource protection system could provide real-time sensitive site monitoring.
- System can provide real-time animal tracking and sensitive site monitoring for Natural Resource Management

Digital wireless transmission of data is one way to provide situational awareness and other incident response communications. The NPS is required to use Project 25 radio systems and, therefore, the wireless system will be built out and funded. P25 offers a relatively slow data communication link but it will be system-wide, budgeted and secure.

Digital transmission of data, whether it is spatial or not, is preferable to voice in a crisis situation due to the confusion caused by the many to one requirements used during dispatch operations. In other words, it is much easier and efficient for a

dispatcher to handle digital information coming from the field than voice communications. Additionally, digital text based communications provide for easy record keeping of operations. During an incident, given the proper tools, a dispatcher could handle hundreds of communications with assets if he/she interfaced with digital data coming from those assets but it would be impossible for the dispatcher to handle hundreds of assets communicating via voice.

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