Abstract

Using GIS to Keep the Public Safe From Potential Danger

Track: Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

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During the Summer of 2001, law enforcement officials in Asheville, North Carolina used GIS technology to quickly notify citizens-at-risk, keeping them safe and informed during a potential threat. A heavily armed and dangerous suspect was fleeing from the Asheville Police. As officers searched for the individual, the department used GeoNotify to alert more than 5,500 nearby residents and businesses. The system delivered a recorded message describing the subject and where he was last seen. Residents were advised not to approach the individual and to report anything unusual. Many call-ins were received and residents were able to adjust their routines accordingly.

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