

Abstract

Federal GIS Support for the Shuttle Columbia Recovery Operations

Track: EMS, Fire, Disaster Management

Author(s): Ronald Langhelm

The world witnessed the loss of the Columbia Space Shuttle. For most people who watched the disaster on television, the tragic loss of life overshadowed any thoughts of the long-term recovery effort that would be required. However, a long-term recovery effort was immediately being organized, even during the response, as a multitude of federal, state, and local government entities came together under the President's declaration of an emergency to perform the largest ground search operation in our country's history. Supporting the geospatial needs of such an effort has been unlike any disaster GIS operation FEMA has experienced. This session will present the challenges encountered while supporting the Shuttle Recovery operations coordinated from the FEMA Disaster Field Office in Lufkin, Texas. Interactions between various GIS entities will be discussed and our collective lessons learned will be examined. Bringing the big-picture to light will better prepare the GIS community for similar issues on future events.

Ronald Langhelm

FEMA Region X

Response & Recovery

130 228th St SW

Bothell , WA 98021

USA

Phone: 425-487-4642

Fax: 425-487-4741

E-mail: Ron.Langhelm@fema.gov