

Title: Benefits of a GIS in Emergency Management, Planning and Response: *An Update on NJMC's ERIS Program*

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The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission (NJMC) is a regional planning agency located in northern New Jersey, just six miles from the heart of Manhattan. The Emergency Response Information System (ERIS) is a regional emergency information system that helps manage, plan and respond to emergency situations covering 14 New Jersey municipalities. This regional initiative to share resources among local governments has become an important tool and spatial data source to first responders.

Emergency officials access regional datasets that are rich in spatial information of the Meadowlands region and over easily accessible applications running from NJMC's central servers. The Meadowlands Environmental Research Institute (MERI), which is the scientific arm of the NJMC, provides GIS for this region through ERIS, an enterprise GIS designed to be shared by emergency officials among 14 municipalities. The presentation will cover a standalone ERIS application currently deployed on emergency vehicles and an Interactive Mapping Service (IMS)/ Google based application designed to be accessed from workstations connected to the Internet.

Keywords: Planning, Management, Response, Emergency, Enterprise GIS