

Can Emergency Management Go Virtual?

Gareth Carter

NSW Rural Fire Service

gareth.carter@rfs.nsw.gov.au

Warwick Hehir

NSW Rural Fire Service

warwick.hehir@rfs.nsw.gov.au

ABSTRACT

Current trends internationally and nationally show increasing collaboration between national to local jurisdictions to share tools and technologies, such as geospatial services and data for emergency response purposes. This presentation discusses the management frameworks in supporting spatial data collaboration as well as touching on the tools and technology they utilise. It looks at what is happening in other organisations as well as the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS). This includes the NSW RFS mapping of fire fronts and how it is made available to all NSW emergency service organisations, and a discussion on how emergency information is shared with the public through applications such as the 'Fires near me' iphone application and web maps. The provision of GeoRSS map services which can be used by other websites such as 'Bushfire Connect' and the virtualisation of incident information are also described.

KEYWORDS: *GIS, mapping, virtual, emergency management.*