

Public Entities Teaming Up to Optimize 911



Emergency response entities agree that current imagery enables more effective 911 systems; the older the imagery, the less reliable it is for resource management and route planning. As 911 software systems at the Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) are updated to the latest technologies with geographic information systems (GIS) at the heart of the system, imagery becomes integral as the base map. While it is highly desirable to continually refresh imagery, the obvious downside is cost. In an effort to maintain fresh imagery while managing costs, many emergency response entities form partnerships with other entities such as local governments that also use imagery for their respective planning and management tasks. By sharing the costs in exchange for sharing the data, all participants benefit. In the past few years, Surdex has worked on numerous projects for collaborations involving emergency response entities.

How 911 Entities Use Orthoimagery

Updated orthoimagery is used as a base layer from which various geospatial datasets related to emergency response can be derived. Existing road line data can be compiled or updated using the imagery, and this data is necessary for planning response routes. Many states are turning to NextGen911 systems, which are computer-based planning and response platforms. These enable more efficient and accurate organization and deployment of emergency response resources.*

Surdex's 911 Projects

In recent years, Surdex has completed several orthoimagery projects for either 911 entities or clients partially or completely funded by emergency response groups, detailed in the table below. Note that most of these are repeat clients, which demonstrates our success in fulfilling our clients' geospatial data needs.

Surdex's Recent Emergency Response Projects

Project Name	Project Years	Services Provided by Surdex	911/Emergency Response Entity Involved
Kansas Statewide	2014, 2018	12" GSD imagery	Kansas 911 Coordinating Council
Smith County, Texas	2010, 2014, 2016, 2018, current 2020	6" GSD imagery, planimetric updates	Smith County 911 Communications District
North Carolina Statewide (NC Center for Geographic Information and Analysis)	2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, current 2020	6" GSD imagery	North Carolina 911 Board
Houston-Galveston Area Council	2012, 2014-2015, 2016, 2018, current 2020	6" / 12" GSD imagery	Gulf Coast Regional 911 Emergency Communications District, Greater Harris County 911 Emergency Network
Iowa Statewide	2016-2018	12" GSD imagery	Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management

*For more detailed information on NextGen911, see www.911.gov/issue_nextgeneration911.html.

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In-Depth Look: North Carolina Statewide Orthoimagery Project

The statewide orthoimagery project run by the North Carolina Center for Geographic Information is funded by the North Carolina 911 board. This project began in 2010, and Surdex is in its ninth year of participation as an orthoimagery provider. The state has been divided into four geographic regions, and each year one of the four regions is acquired, resulting in new imagery statewide every four years. Several state entities collaborate on this project, as demonstrated in the chart below. The final data is available to the public and benefits many different organizations that can use it for property assessment, transportation planning, and various other tasks.**



North Carolina Orthoimagery Program organization
source: www.nconemap.gov/pages/imagery.

If you are an emergency response group or would like to partner with one, Surdex can help you design a project similar to the ones described here. We can offer advice and ultimately provide the quality data your organization needs for emergency planning and response, or whatever your line of work may be, so that you can do your job as efficiently as possible.

**For more information on this project, visit www.nconemap.gov/pages/imagery.



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