

# *Unit 23*

## **GIS Lead**

# GIS Lead: *Unit Objectives*

By the end of this unit the student will be able to list three tasks assigned to a Lead GISS on an incident, and three considerations for a Lead GIS supporting the following levels:

- Local Office,
- Area Command,
- Multi Agency Command (MAC)

# Watch-Out Situations for GISS's

- Responding to map requests from someone other than the Situation Unit Leader (SITL).
- Working in a location with lots of foot traffic.
- Not getting adequate rest.
- Not following the map production objectives of the SITL.

# Watch-Out Situations for GISS's

- Not communicating with other GISS's, the SITL or other Command staff.
- Interpreting data without SITL approval.
- Lack of clean reliable power.
- Lack of adequate access to FTP and Internet sites.

# Watch-Out Situations for GISS's

- Inadequate hardware resources to run GIS software or to print quality maps in a timely fashion.
- Not ordering plotter and printer supplies on time.
- Working with a different version of software used by other GISS's on the incident.

# Watch-Out Situations for GISS's

- Not backing up and archiving the incident GIS data each shift.
- Not sharing perimeter data or maps using *ftp.nifc.gov* or other approved location.
- Not documenting GIS procedures and data structure.
- Not following GIS procedures and data structure.

# Watch-Out Situations for GISS's

- A GIS staff without adequate training or experience to be qualified as GISS's for incident mapping.
- A local GISS commuting from home (safety issue).
- A workspace environment that may cause damage to computer and printer hardware (dusty, damp, etc.).

# Lead GISS: The Crew Boss

- Large busy incidents have more than one GISS thus a Crew Boss is necessary.
- The SITL will determine who the Lead GISS will be.
- The Crew Boss delegates the workload, ensures completion and manages efficiencies.

# Team Attached Lead

A Team may have a “Team Attached GISS” who goes out with the Team, as a member of the Team, on every assignment. This may default that individual into being the Lead GISS every time regardless of their skill or experience level.

# GIS/Situation Unit Interaction

- The lead GISS is the main point of contact between The SITL and other members of the Situation Unit, and the GISS staff.
  - Field Observers (FOBS)
  - Inferred Interpreters (IRIN)
  - Ordering supplies and the Buying Team

# Lead GISS Activities

- A Lead GISS visits local offices and others working in support of the incident representing the GIS Shop or Situation Unit.
- A Lead GISS works to bring a variety of people together and instill consistency in Map development.

# Working with a Contract Trailer

The GISS Lead may have the responsibility of the liaison between a Commercial Contract Trailer and the Team Situation Unit.

# GISS beyond Teams

- ICS is a multi-tiered organization.
- Whereas Teams are the most common work environment, there are tasks associated with other points in the ICS Structure.
  - Local Office
  - Area Command
  - Multi Agency Command (MAC)
  - Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC)

# GISS and the Local Office

- You may get hired by a Local office or Supporting Administrative Unit.
- Tasks May include:
  - Forest Closure Maps
  - Timber or outfitting adjustment maps
  - Public Information Maps
  - Web maps

# GISS and the Area Command

- You may be assigned to an Area Command
- Tasks may include:
  - Collating and managing a progression map.
  - Updating maps for a web site.
  - Camp visits ensuring all GIS needs are being met.

# GISS and the MAC or GACC

- You may be assigned to a Multi Agency Command (MAC) or Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC) usually working for and representing the Geographic Area.
- At this level the decision making process of managers revolves around prioritization of incidents and resource allocation.

# Making Non-Standard Maps

- The GIS Lead may be free to make custom one-time maps since they should not be directly involved in most of the daily map production.
- Managing the workload for additional maps can be a challenge.

# GIS Lead: *Unit Review*

By the end of this unit the student will be able to list three tasks assigned to a Lead GISS on an incident, and three considerations for a Lead GIS supporting the following levels:

- Local Office,
- Area Command,
- Multi Agency Command (MAC)