

US Geological Survey, Geospatial Information Response Team
Team Charter
Revised December 15, 2010

This charter outlines the purpose, responsibility and structure of the U.S. Geological Survey Geospatial Information Response Team (GIRT).

Purpose—The primary purpose of the Geospatial Information Response Team (GIRT) is to ensure streamlined and responsive coordination and timely availability of geospatial information for effective response to hazards and other major events by emergency responders, land and resource managers, and scientific analysis. The GIRT is responsible for putting in place monitoring procedures for geospatial data acquisition, processing, and archiving; data discovery, access, and delivery; anticipating geospatial needs; and other related geospatial products and services.

Scope of Responsibility—The GIRT is focused on supporting programs, offices, other agencies, and the public in mission responses to hazards and other major events requiring extensive geospatial information for response activities. The GIRT will leverage the USGS geospatial assets of the Bureau to coordinate provisioning and deployment of USGS geospatial data, products, services and equipment. The GIRT will align with emergency response communities to compliment traditional civil response partners, as well as the homeland security, defense, intelligence communities as appropriate to the USGS mission. The USGS network of geospatial liaisons will be used for coordinating geospatial information sharing with the National Response Framework constructs, DHS State fusion centers and State, local, and tribal governments and ensure geospatial liaison back-up support procedures are in place. The GIRT will coordinate disposition of USGS staff and assets in support of the DOI Interagency Operation Center (IOC), the DHS IRSCC (Interagency Remote Sensing Coordination Cell) and the FEMA NRCC (National Response Coordination Center) activities as requested. A GIRT member will be designated to provide linkage to the hazard response teams, such as the Operational and Scientific Storm Response Teams.

Roles and Procedures—Roles of the Team members will be described in an attachment to this charter. The attachment will also include procedures and points of contact for the various responsibilities and activities of the Team and USGS staff members.

Membership—Members of the team will be appointed by the relevant Associate and Regional Directors with approval by the Deputy Director and Associate Director for Core Science Systems. The GIRT will be chaired by the National Geospatial Program Emergency Operations Office Chief. Team membership will include, but is not limited to, the following organizational areas. Depending on the response, more than one representative from an organization may be required:

National Geospatial Program Office (NGPO),
Land Remote Sensing, Program Office,
Earth Resources Observations and Science (EROS) Center,

Geographic Science Centers,
National Wetlands Science Center, Science Response Vehicle (SRV) Coordination,
Regional Executives' Offices,
Administrative and Enterprise Information,, Map Distribution Warehouse,
Geospatial Liaison(s) in, or adjacent to, the area where the response is required, and
Natural Hazards Program Coordinator(s), Ad hoc depending on the response required

Other participants will be added to the GIRT depending upon the type of hazard and response required to fulfill mission requirements.

Decision-making Process—Decisions of the team will be made by consensus to the greatest extent possible. If consensus cannot be reached, the GIRT Chair will take the issue forward with recommendations to the National Geospatial Program Office Director for a decision.

Time Frame—The GIRT is a standing team that is activated on request and during hazard events that require coordination of bureau geospatial assets. The GIRT is on high alert during the hurricane season from June through November each year.

Accountability—The GIRT will be responsible directly to the Associate Director for Core Science Systems. The activities of the GIRT will be tracked through establishment of a Bureau account (including BASIS+ entry and other accounting mechanisms as required) to facilitate reporting of expenses incurred for planning and preparation of hazard response activities and related infrastructure.

Kevin T. Gallagher /signed/
Associate Director Core Science Systems
U.S. Geological Survey

Date: December 17, 2010