

PARTNERSHIPS DELIVER 9-1-1 UPGRADE

Arizona agencies come together with funding and expertise for next generation platform

By Tonia Rogers

Like many 9-1-1 programs, Arizona has found the need to look for non-traditional partnerships and methods to achieve goals moving toward a next generation platform. The state of Arizona has 86 PSAP's within seventeen 9-1-1 systems. Leveraging various partnerships and projects, the Arizona 9-1-1 Program Office has been able to outfit all Arizona PSAP's with mapping and 99 percent of Arizona now has wireless phase 2 (WPH2) capabilities.

The need to think outside the traditional box for updating the 9-1-1 mapping system stems from a lackluster

funding model in Arizona. The Emergency Telecommunications Services Excise Tax rate of 20 cents per month for each activated wire, wireless and voice over internet protocol (VoIP) service account provides funding for Arizona's 9-1-1 system. During the economic downturn, the Arizona Legislature voted to redistribute some of the funds from the 9-1-1 account, making the need for partnerships and alternative methodologies more imperative.

Working with the Arizona Geographic Information Council (AGIC), the Arizona State Land Department State Cartographer's Office and Arizona state agencies, the Arizona 9-1-1 Program Office was able to begin the arduous process of completing GIS data for Arizona's 9-1-1 systems to include road and address point network creation. Twelve of the 15 counties had some form of mapping (GIS) data but lacked consistency.

The Arizona Broadband Mapping and Planning Project, which used NTIA State Broadband Initiative funding under the Federal Recovery Rehabilitation Act (ARRA), partnered with the Arizona 9-1-1 Program Office for the completion of GIS road and centerline data. Another facet of the data work was achieved through an additional partnership with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT). The support to the All Roads Network of Linear Referenced Data (ARNOLD) and leveraged funds to the cooperative completed additional road network development.

The partnership funding allowed for the completion of roads, emergency service number (ESN), and community boundaries mapping in three counties and the completion of address points for seven counties. The completion of the data allowed for the compilation of statewide GIS networks to improve geocoding of address data—including the development of an address editor and parser to assist with data maintenance and processing.

In further support of Arizona's 9-1-1 GIS, efforts were dedicated to the creation of the Arizona Geographic Information Council's Arizona Geospatial Clearinghouse (AZGEO). AZGEO allows for GIS data to be stored and accessed in a secure, user-friendly environment supporting both GIS and non-GIS users.

