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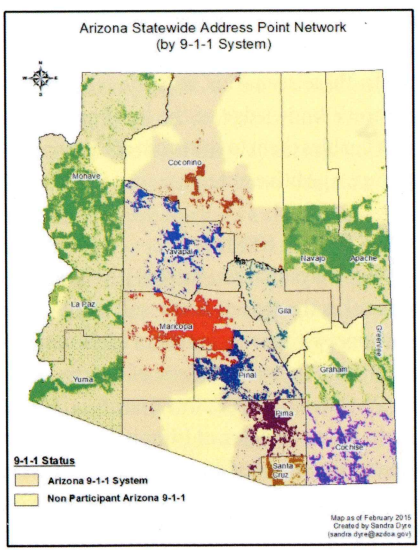
> During the economic downturn, the Arizona Legislature voted to redistribute some of the funds from the 9-1-1 account, making the need for partnerships and alternative methodologies more imperative.

AZGEO is utilized by many of Arizona's 9-1-1 systems for data sharing between other 9-1-1 systems and Arizona government agencies.

AGIC supports AZGEO through committees that maintain support of the clearinghouse, data, and application development and maintenance. AGIC created a committee, the AGIC Data Committee 9-1-1 Working Group, to assist with the partnership's oversight and enhancement. The AGIC 9-1-1 Technical Committee was created to develop 9-1-1 GIS recommendations to support the GIS data used today in 9-1-1 and in preparation for Next Generation 9-1-1.



The work that has been completed has provided the Arizona 9-1-1 Program Office the ability to complete data quality checks not available previously for the preparation of Next Generation 9-1-1. The statewide mapping project allows for the recognition of gaps and overlaps between 9-1-1 system authority boundaries (to include emergency service boundaries), state and county boundaries, and even authority boundary gaps on the international border. These findings reinforce the need for quality assurance tests and ongoing analysis of map data.

Even with the work completed, as seen from the map to the left, there are some additional mapping hurdles in the northeastern part of the state as tribal land spans different state boundaries, using various law, fire, and EMS boundaries and is not always mapped in the same manner. However, using the public road data from ADOT and including information from the ADOT ticketing system, the map information is not only current but quality checked moving forward.

With the move toward a Next Generation 9-1-1 platform, the partnership has planned to push for more comprehensive databases that would allow ALI to GIS comparison, system-wide accuracy, and support for NG9-1-1 GIS datasets such as centerline, address points, and emergency service and community boundaries.

The Arizona 9-1-1 Program Office is working on common procedures and guidelines for Next Generation 9-1-1 and continues to work with the existing partners to strengthen not only the 9-1-1 GIS efforts but relationships and data networks to ensure continuity and accuracy moving forward. The old saying that 'many hands make light work' is most certainly true in this melding of the many layers of local, county and state partners to move an underfunded aspect of the Arizona 9-1-1 system forward. ●

Tonia Rogers *recently retired from the Tolleson Police Department after 18 years of service and is now teaching and writing full-time.*

Editor's note

Special thanks to Sandra Dyre, 9-1-1 Project Manager with the Arizona 9-1-1 Program for her assistance, technical guidance and information on the Arizona 9-1-1 program use of partnerships. Sandra was recently awarded the Geospatial Award of Excellence from the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) for her work building these relationships and partnerships that not only helped 9-1-1 but other Arizona state, county and local agencies.