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Woodrow Wilson
International
Center
for Scholars

Part 1 – Domestic Emergency Preparedness

Liability & Reliability with Crowdsourced & Volunteered Information for Disaster Management

August 30, 2011

NAPSG Foundation

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Who We Are

❖ Non-Profit Organization – 501 (c) 3

❖ Practitioner-led Board of Directors

❖ Regional Leadership Teams

- 9 FEMA Regions

❖ 3,000+ National Practitioner Network

- Interdisciplinary - fire, police, emergency mgt, health…

❖ 800+ State & Local Agencies

❖ Coordination with other National Public Safety & GIS Organizations

Why we are here today

Brisbane Flood, January 2011

Chile Earthquake, February 2010

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, April 2010

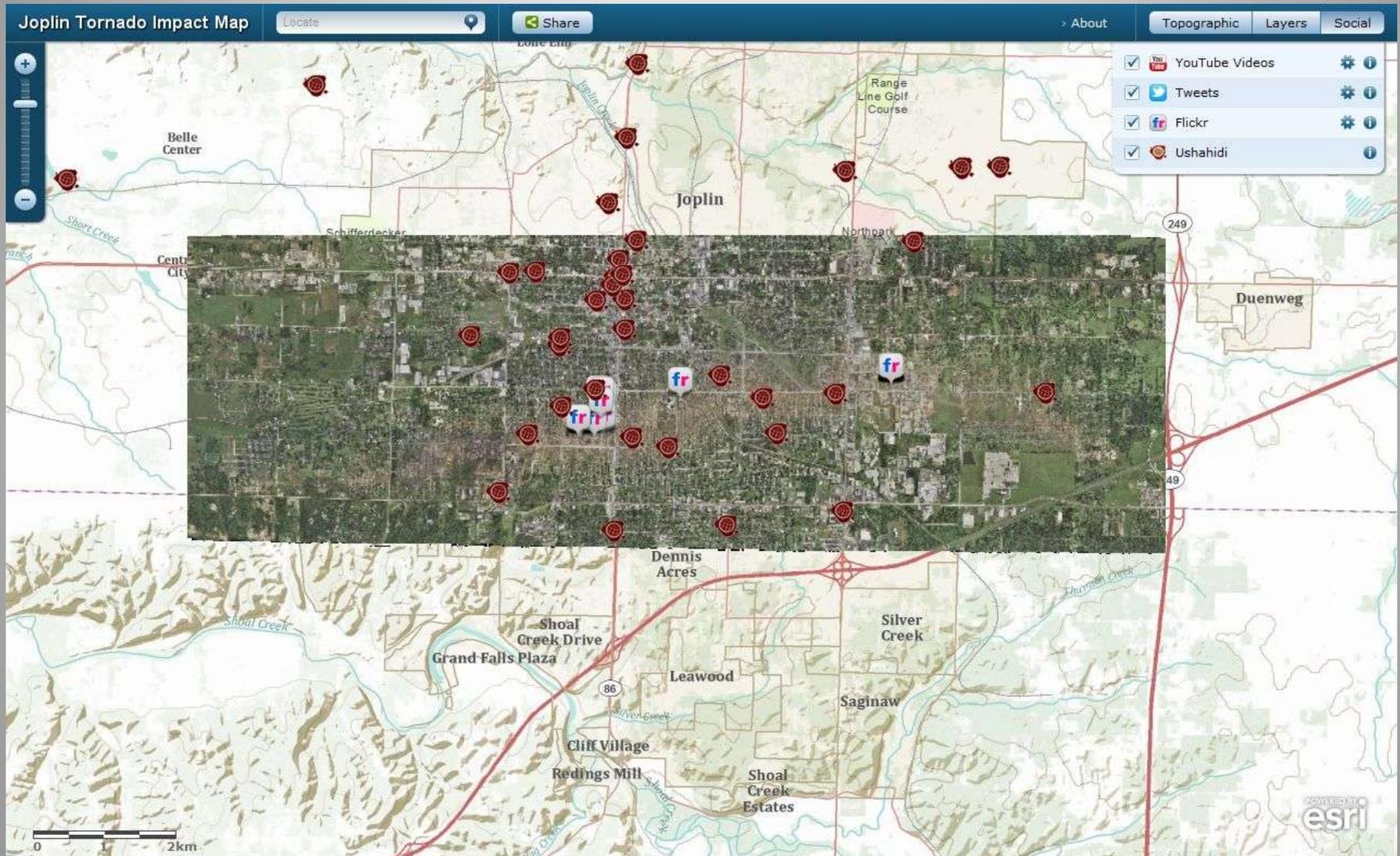Times Square Bombing Attempt, May 2010

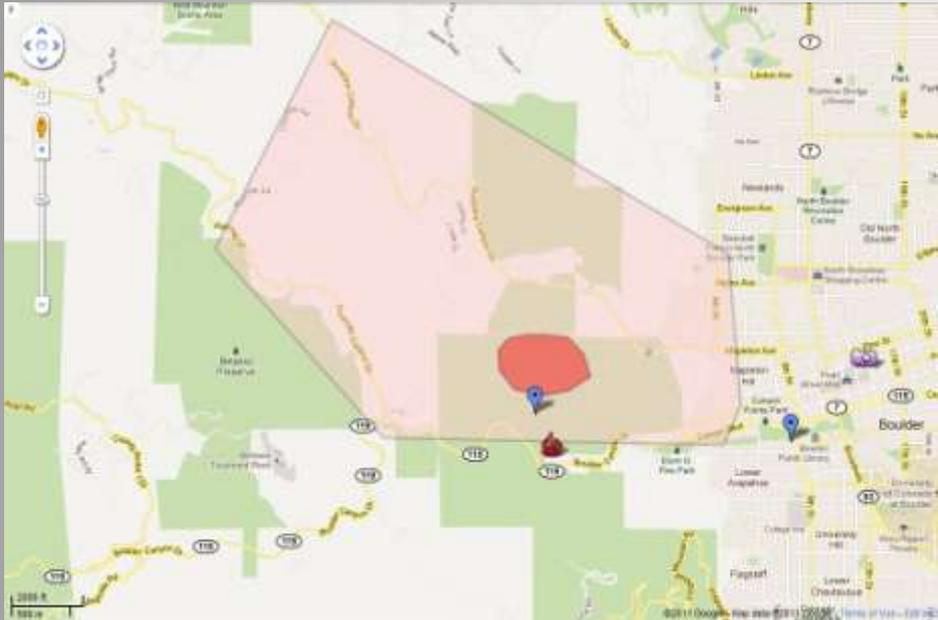**Structure Fire**
Everyday Incident

Pipeline Explosion September 2010

Example 1 – Joplin, MO Tornado Map

Example 2 - Wildland Fire Maps

Map 1 – Four Mile Canyon Fire, CO   Map 2 – Salt Fire, CO

❖ **What is the difference between the fire perimeters in the two maps?**

❖ Map 1 – Public collaboration map, generated by a citizen, consumed by local news organization, no information about the source of data, received over 2.5 million views

❖ Map 2 – Produced by local emergency response agency (Type III IMT), used authoritative accurate data, map serves as public information tool to community

Core Questions

❖ What are the potential liabilities associated with producing or using any type of crowdsourced or volunteered information product in response to an emergency?

❖ What can the emergency response community rely on crowdsourced information, volunteered geographic information, or crisis mapping products for?

❖ What strategies can be employed to reduce risks and liability exposure?

Today's Objective

❖ Starting point to inform the development of a <u>coordinated strategy & practical guidance</u> on how the emergency response community engages with the volunteer & technical communities and uses crowdsourced & volunteered information.

Key Terminology – Part 1

❖ **Crowdsourcing –** the act of outsourcing tasks – observations, data collection & analysis - to a large group of people (a crowd)

❖ **Crowdsourced** – Aggregated information generated by the crowd and filtered by volunteer communities of interest

❖ **Crisis Map** – Map product generated in response to an emergency, using open data, & produced by volunteer communities of interest

❖ **Volunteered Geographic Information – VGI** – geo-referenced data provided by any individual

❖ **Volunteered Information** – citizen-generated information provided via social media or other collaborative environments

❖ **Volunteer & Technology Communities – V&TC** - Independent people that informally convene (virtually & in-person) to contribute their skills & expertise with the intent to be of service in times of crisis.

❖ **Emergency Response Community – ERC -** Official government agencies & sanctioned volunteer organizations that provide public services in public safety, emergency management & homeland security

Agenda Overview

❖ **2:00pm** Welcome & Introduction from Woodrow Wilson Center & NAPSG

❖ **2:10pm** Remarks from a Panel of Experts

❖ **3:00pm** Moderated Discussion – Q&A

❖ **3:50pm** Closing & Wrap-Up

❖ **4:00pm** Panel Adjourned

    ○ **R**efreshments & informal discussion

Questions?

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