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Questions - Submit by email to CommonsLab@wilsoncenter.org
Part 1 – Domestic Emergency Preparedness

Liability & Reliability with Crowdsourced & Volunteered Information for Disaster Management

August 30, 2011
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
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
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?
Starting point to inform the development of a coordinated strategy & practical guidance 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
  - Refreshments & informal discussion
Questions?

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