



UrbanDataLabs, LLC

**How Spatial Data is  
Transforming Emergency  
Management**



# **Harnessing the Transformative Potential of Urban Data Science and GIS**

[urbandatalabs.com](http://urbandatalabs.com)

# Welcome and Introduction

- Five years of Emergency Management at the county level
  - Certified Urban Planner (AICP)
  - Certified GIS Professional (GISP)
  - R Programmer (Analytics)
- 
- Started UrbanDataLabs, LLC in 2023 to blend Analytics, GIS, and Urban Planning for Urban Resilience



**Bernardo Salazar, AICP, GISP**

# Presentation Outline

- Overview of Emergency Management
- GIS and Emergency Management
- Spatial Data Needs in Emergency Management
- Examples
- Questions / Comments



# **Overview of Emergency Management**

# Defining Emergency Management

**Simple Definition:** Emergency Management involves coordinating resources and developing strategies to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the impact of natural and technological hazards.

## Why Emergency Management?

- Threats and hazards exist
- Disaster events have a significant impact on humans, the economy, and the environment
- Success depends on how well prepared, organized, and coordinated we are
- Emergency Management principles and practices actually work to achieve successful outcomes

# Emergency Management Principles

**Comprehensive** - all threats/hazards

**Progressive** - anticipate future disasters and take proactive measures

**Risk-Driven** - leverage risk management principles to prioritize

**Integrated** - unity of effort among all levels of government

**Collaborative** - create and develop broad and sincere relationships

**Coordinated** - synchronize activities of relevant stakeholders

**Flexible** - use creative and innovative approaches in solving challenges.

**Professional** - value a science- and knowledge-based approach

# Emergency Management Phases

**Preparedness** - Continuous cycle of planning, organizing, training, equipping, exercising, evaluating and taking corrective action

**Response** - Save lives, protect property and the environment, and meet basic human needs during an incident

**Recovery** - Timely restoration, strengthening and revitalization of infrastructure, housing, and economy

**Mitigation** - Reduce the loss of life and property by lessening the impact of future disasters



# **GIS and Emergency Management**

# How does GIS fit Into Emergency Management?

*GIS is a very useful tool for many aspects of emergency management including emergency response, planning, mitigation, exercises, homeland security, response, and recovery.*

*GIS has robust modeling capabilities, allowing its users to adjust data and scenarios for prediction, planning, and estimation.*

*GIS provides emergency management personnel and decision makers the information they need to make accurate and timely decisions.*

- Emergency Management Institute, IS-922.a: Applications of GIS for Emergency Management

# GIS for Emergency Management: Why Now?

- Most Jurisdictions have a GIS system/license
- More Publicly Available Data
- Wider Adoption Across State and Federal Partners
- Growing Public Awareness (John Hopkins COVID-19 Dashboard)
- Collaborative Technology
- Less Configuration – Out of the Box
- Easily YouTube/Google Answers

# Example GIS Activities by Phase

## Preparedness:

- Aids in hazard identification and risk assessment.
- Mapping potential disaster zones, identifying vulnerable populations (Social Vulnerability Index), and analyze potential.
- Map flood zones to determine where flooding is likely to occur and which properties and populations are at risk.

## Response:

- Critical for real-time decision-making and communication.
- Real-time tracking, data visualization, and the ability to rapidly update and distribute critical information.
- Visualize the areas most impacted.
- Decision-makers can use this information to allocate resources, implement evacuation orders, and make other critical decisions.

# Example GIS Activities by Phase

## Recovery:

- In the recovery phase, GIS helps assess the damage post-disaster, aiding in recovery planning.
- Aerial imagery can be used to identify damaged infrastructure or affected areas that need immediate attention.
- GIS can also help manage recovery efforts such as debris removal or infrastructure repairs by tracking progress and identifying outstanding needs.

## Mitigation:

- In the mitigation phase, GIS plays a role in planning strategies to reduce future risk and increase resilience.
- Mapping areas repeatedly affected by flooding, planners can identify the need for infrastructure changes or other mitigation strategies.
- In the longer term, GIS can support climate resilience planning, helping communities adapt to changing risk profiles due to climate change.

# **Spatial Data Needs in Emergency Management**

# Spatial Data Needs in Emergency Management

**Geospatial Data:** This type of data is crucial to map the disaster areas and carry out spatial analyses. Data sources could be satellite imagery, aerial photography, or crowd-sourced platforms.

**Temporal Data:** Emergency management requires real-time data for immediate response as well as historical data for planning and mitigation purposes.

**Thematic Data:** This refers to data relating to specific themes, such as population demographics, infrastructure, land-use, vegetation, climate, and more to provide context and deeper analysis.

**Data Management:** Managing these vast amounts of data in a systematic and accessible way is crucial. Good data management practices ensure that the right data is available to the right people at the right time.

# Examples



# Relevant EM Data Sources: HIFLD

Uses an ESRI Platform

The screenshot shows the HIFLD GeoPlatform website interface. At the top, the browser address bar displays the URL <https://hifld-geoplatform.opendata.arcgis.com>. A red callout box points to this URL with the text "Uses an ESRI Platform". The website header includes the HIFLD logo and the text "Homeland Infrastructure Foundation-Level Data (HIFLD)". Below the header, a navigation bar contains the text "DHS.GOV DHS GII FGDC.GOV HIFLD GEOPLATFORM" and a search icon with the text "Sign In". The main content area is titled "Explore Categories" and features a grid of 20 category tiles, each with an icon and a label. The categories are: Agriculture, Borders, Boundaries, Chemicals, Commercial, Communications, Education, Emergency Services, Energy, Finance, Food Industry, Geonames, Government, LandScan, Law Enforcement, Mail Shipping, Mining, National Flood Hazard, Natural Hazards, and Public Health. At the bottom of the page, a URL is visible: [https://hifld-geoplatform.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets?group\\_ids=18b1928a3bc7481cb6aa128aa7b5ff59](https://hifld-geoplatform.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets?group_ids=18b1928a3bc7481cb6aa128aa7b5ff59).

Homeland Infrastructure Foundation-Level Data (HIFLD)

DHS.GOV DHS GII FGDC.GOV HIFLD GEOPLATFORM

Explore Categories

- Agriculture
- Borders
- Boundaries
- Chemicals
- Commercial
- Communications
- Education
- Emergency Services
- Energy
- Finance
- Food Industry
- Geonames
- Government
- LandScan
- Law Enforcement
- Mail Shipping
- Mining
- National Flood Hazard
- Natural Hazards
- Public Health

[https://hifld-geoplatform.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets?group\\_ids=18b1928a3bc7481cb6aa128aa7b5ff59](https://hifld-geoplatform.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets?group_ids=18b1928a3bc7481cb6aa128aa7b5ff59)

# Relevant EM Data Sources: ArcGIS

→ ↻ 🔒 https://hsem.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html ☆


Untitled map Open in Map Viewer Classic 🔔 ⋮ 🌐

< Add layer

ArcGIS Online ▾

🔍 Search for layers


Items: 10,000+ 📄 📑 🗑️



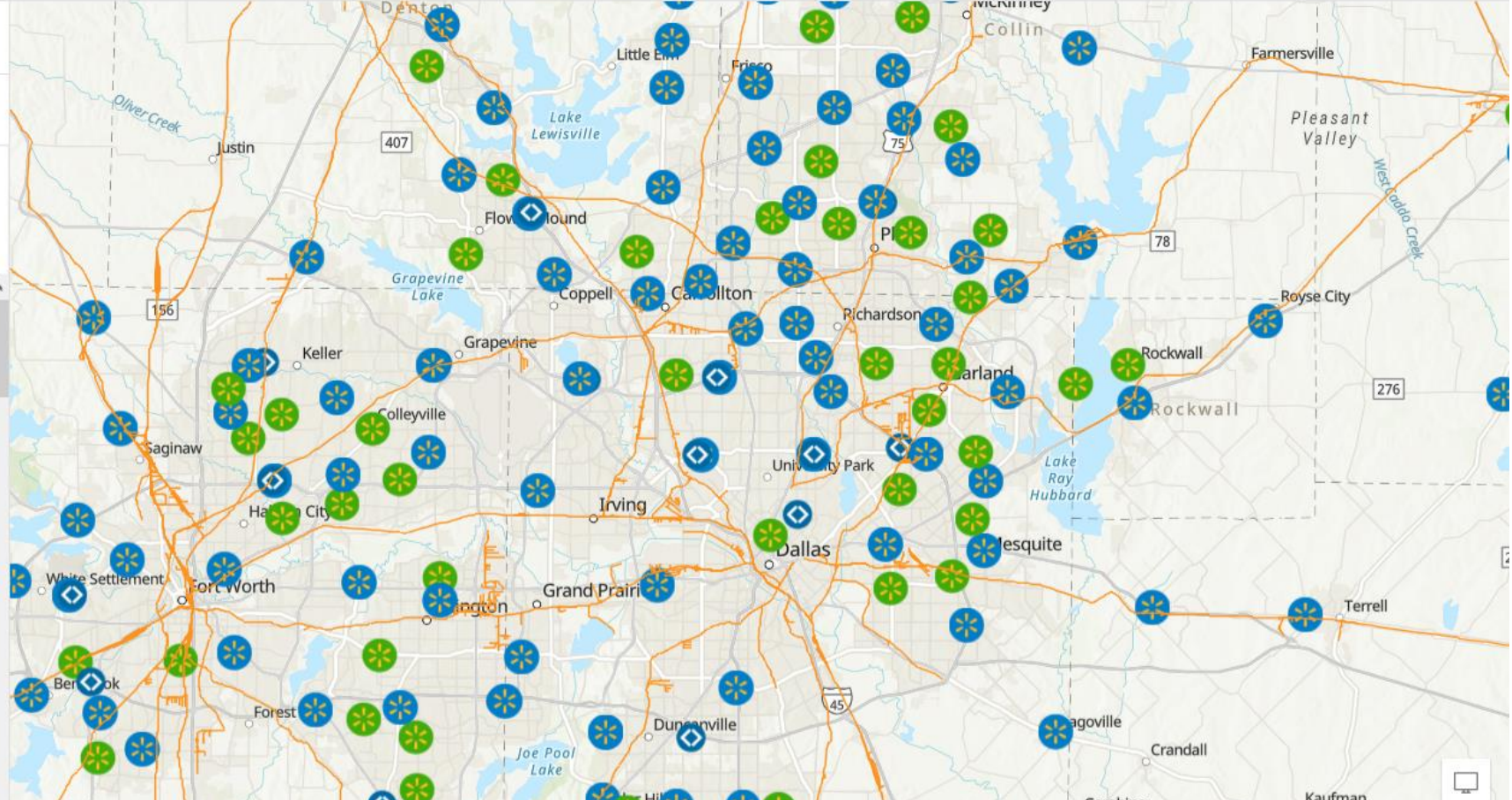
North American Rail Lines - OGC Features

📍 by Esri\_US\_Federal\_Data

Updated: 4/27/22



American Indian Reservations - Federally Recognized Tribal Entities - OGC Features



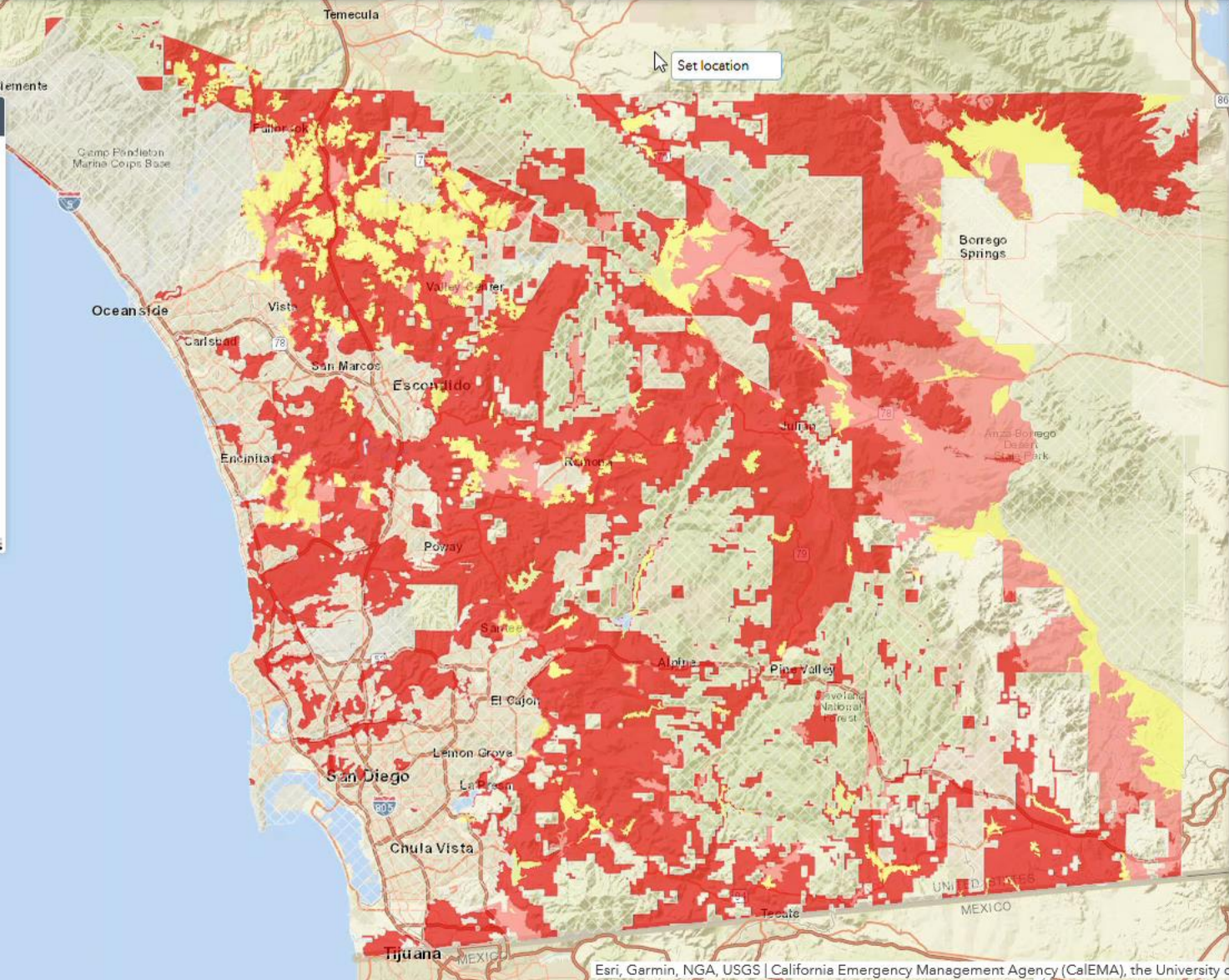
The map displays the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area and surrounding regions. It features a network of orange lines representing rail lines and green and blue star-shaped markers representing Indian reservations. Major cities like Dallas, Fort Worth, Irving, and Grand Prairie are labeled. Water bodies such as Lake Lewisville and Lake Ray Hubbard are also visible. The map interface includes a search bar, a layer list, and navigation controls.

Know Your Hazards

**Hazard Layers**

Layers

- Wildfire Hazard
- Earthquake Hazard with Major Faults
- Flooding Hazard
- Tsunami Hazard



**Enter Your Address & Zoom In**

Search for an address or locate on map

10mi  
-116.756 33.470 Degrees

Esri, Garmin, NGA, USGS | California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA), the University of



# Harris County Community Right-to-Know (CRK) Registered Locations

Select Language ▾

## Legend

### Locations by Hazard Type

- Acute Toxicity Hazard (i)
- Explosive Hazard (i)
- Flammable Hazard (i)
- Organic Peroxide Hazard (i)
- Oxidizer Hazard (i)
- Pyrophoric Hazard (i)
- Other Hazards (i)

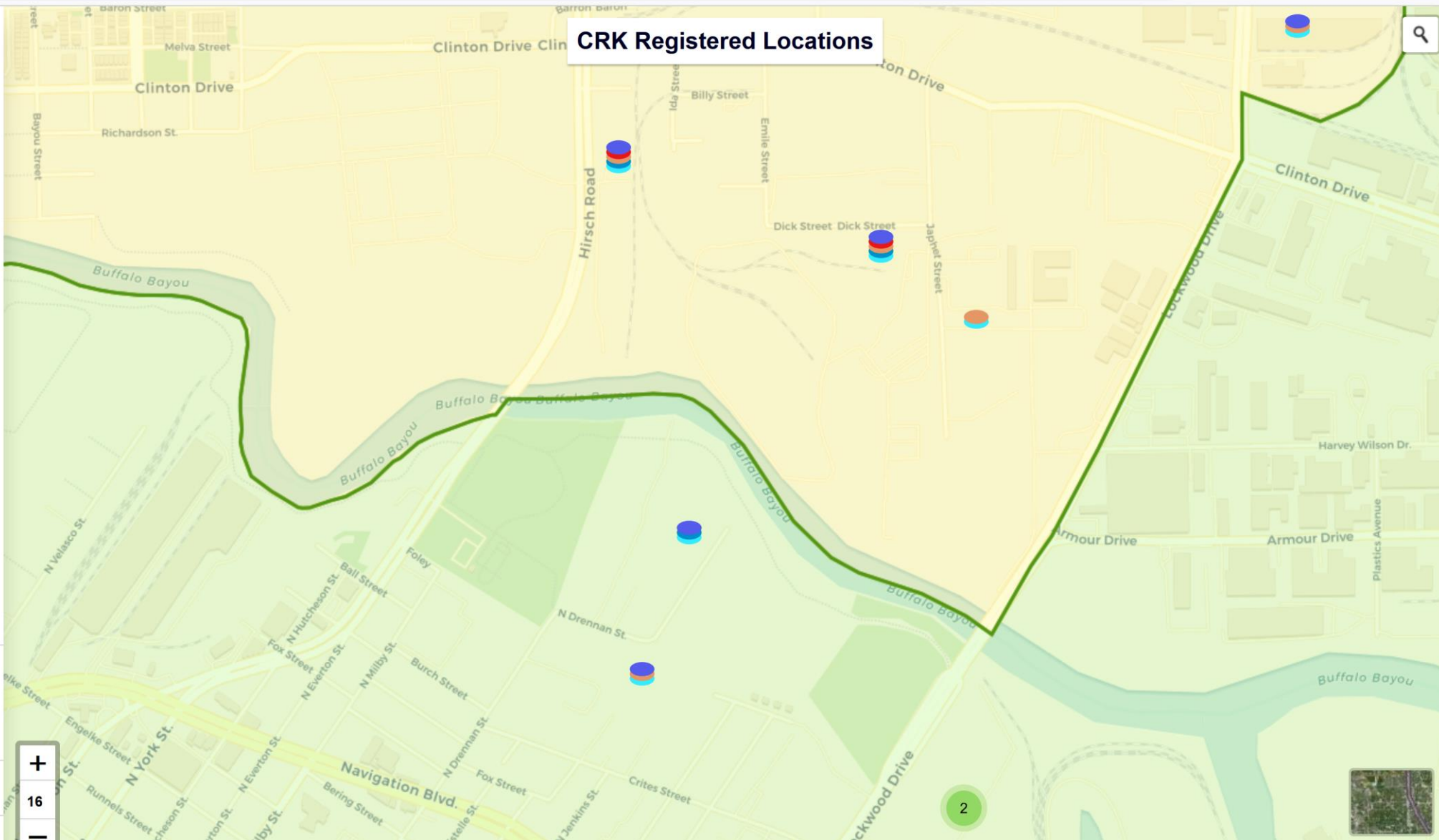
Deselect All

### Locations by Commissioner Precinct

Commissioner Precincts Data ▾

Commissioner Precinct Boundaries ▾

Disclaimer





# Hazard Vulnerability Analysis

Updated July 2022

# Frisco's Situational Awareness For Emergency Response (SAFER)

Situational Awareness For Emergency Response (SAFER), is a geospatial platform that provides Fire, Police, Dispatch, and the EOC with a common operating platform incorporating the use of real-time information to make data driven decisions while responding to incidents.

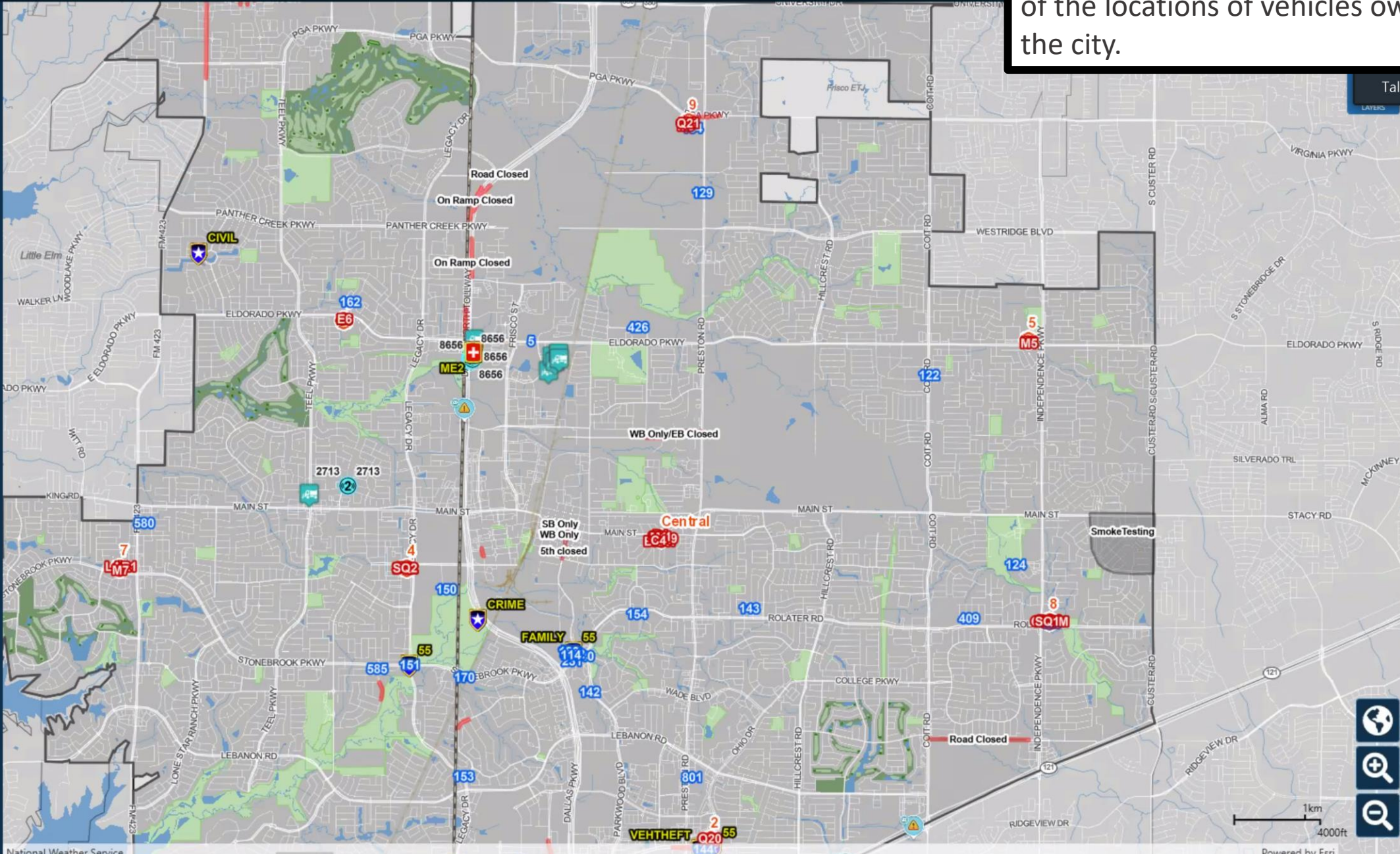
- Data Rich
- Integrated
- User Friendly
- Collaborative



Search All Search

Tracking Resources: Real-time tracking of the locations of vehicles owned by the city.

- Incidents
- Units
- 911 Calls
- Weather
- Markups



Talking: Jason Lane

- LAYERS
- CAD
  - Police
  - Fire
  - Officer Locations
  - ALI
  - RapidSOS
  - RapidSOS Uncertainty
  - Sand Trucks
  - City Vehicles
  - DynamicLayers
    - Protective Action Distance
    - Improvised Explosive Device
    - RADAR
    - Lightning
    - WAZE
      - Accidents
      - Construction
      - Objects on Road
      - Stopped Vehicles
      - Traffic Jams
      - WAZE Construction Lane
    - Storm Response Issues
  - NWS Radar
    - RIDGE 1x1 km Base Reflectivit
  - Layers
    - Points of Interest
    - Emergency Response
      - Traffic Cameras
      - Tower Cameras
      - Fire Watch
      - Crime (Past 72 hours)
      - PD DDACTS Zones
      - Tier 2 Facilities
      - Gate codes
      - STEAR
      - UB Name-Phone



Help

National Weather Service

Powered by Esri

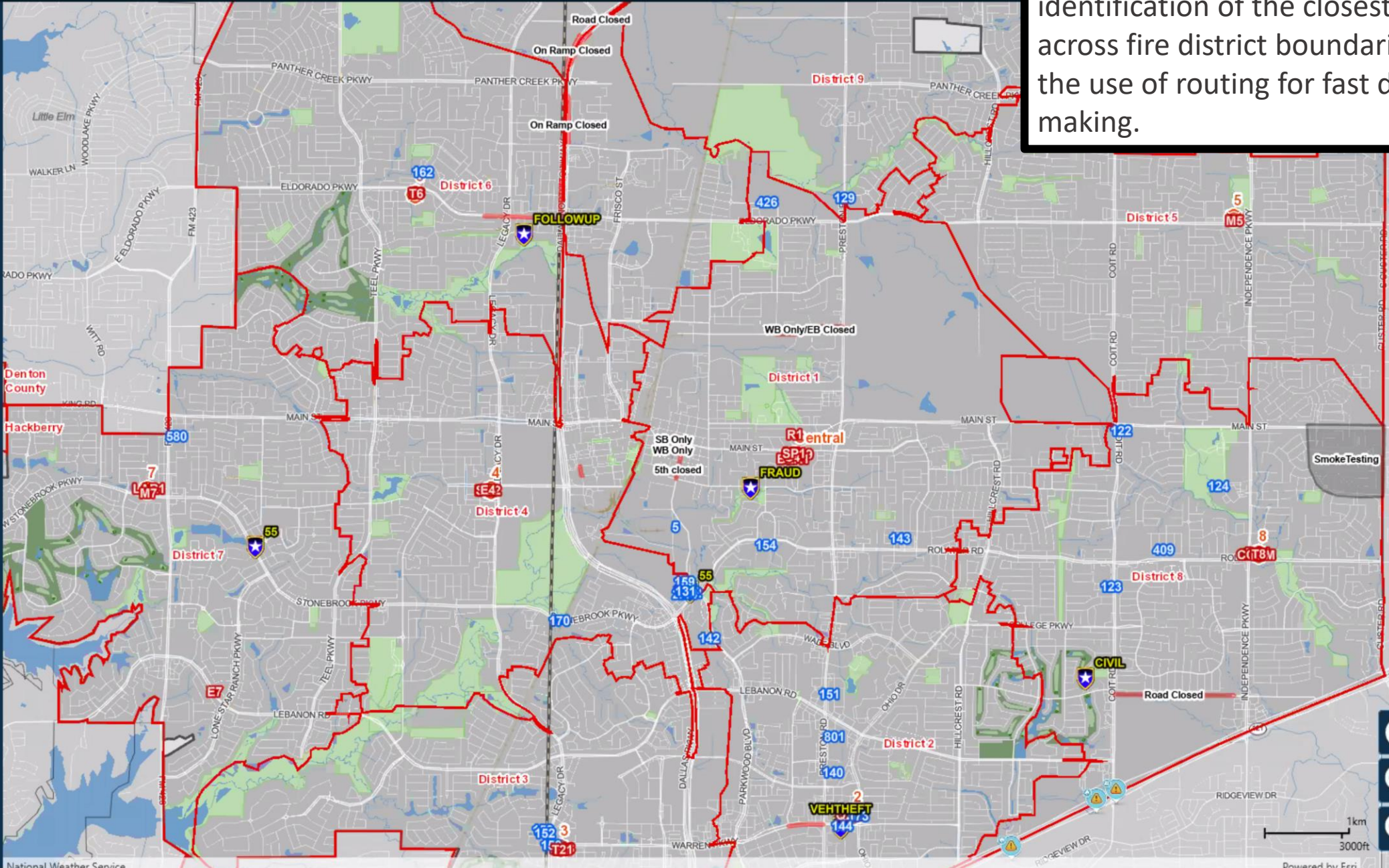
Close icons for window management

Reset



Search All Search

- Incidents
- Units
- 911 Calls
- Weather
- Markups



Efficient allocation of fire trucks and identification of the closest one, even across fire district boundaries, through the use of routing for fast decision-making.

- Crime (Past 72 hours)
- PD DDACTS Zones
- Tier 2 Facilities
- Gate codes
- UB
- UB Name-Phone
- Roadway Markers
- StormShelters
- Police Station
- Fire Stations
- Fire Hydrants
- Fire Hydrants (Regional)
- Fire Hydrants (Prosper)
- FD Back Fill
- FD Level I & II Trauma Tra
- Fire Mapbook Grid
- Warning Sirens
- Fire Battalions
- Fire Districts
- Fire Prevention Inspector
- Prosper FD Station 2 Distr
- PD Mutual Aid
- Fire Medic Districts
- Fire Truck Districts
- Tollway Response
- Police Beats
- Dis FD Tollway Response
- ISD Boundaries
- SAFER Plans
- Parks and Public Event Faciliti
- Landbase
- Land Records
- Topographic Features
- Public and Franchise Utilities

Help

National Weather Service

1km 3000ft

Powered by Esri



Integrating and linking TIER II data, fire hydrant layers, and preplans together.

The screenshot displays a GIS application interface with a map of Frisco, Texas. The map shows various data layers including buildings, fire hydrants, and preplanned areas. A search bar is located at the top left, and a legend is on the right. A 'Talking: Jason Lane' window is open at the top right. The map includes labels for streets such as Main St, Frisco St, and Stadium Ln, and buildings like Bell Frisco Market Center and Waterford Market Luxury Apts. The interface also features a sidebar with navigation and tool options, and a scale bar at the bottom right.



Search All Search



Incidents



Units



911 Calls



Weather



Markups



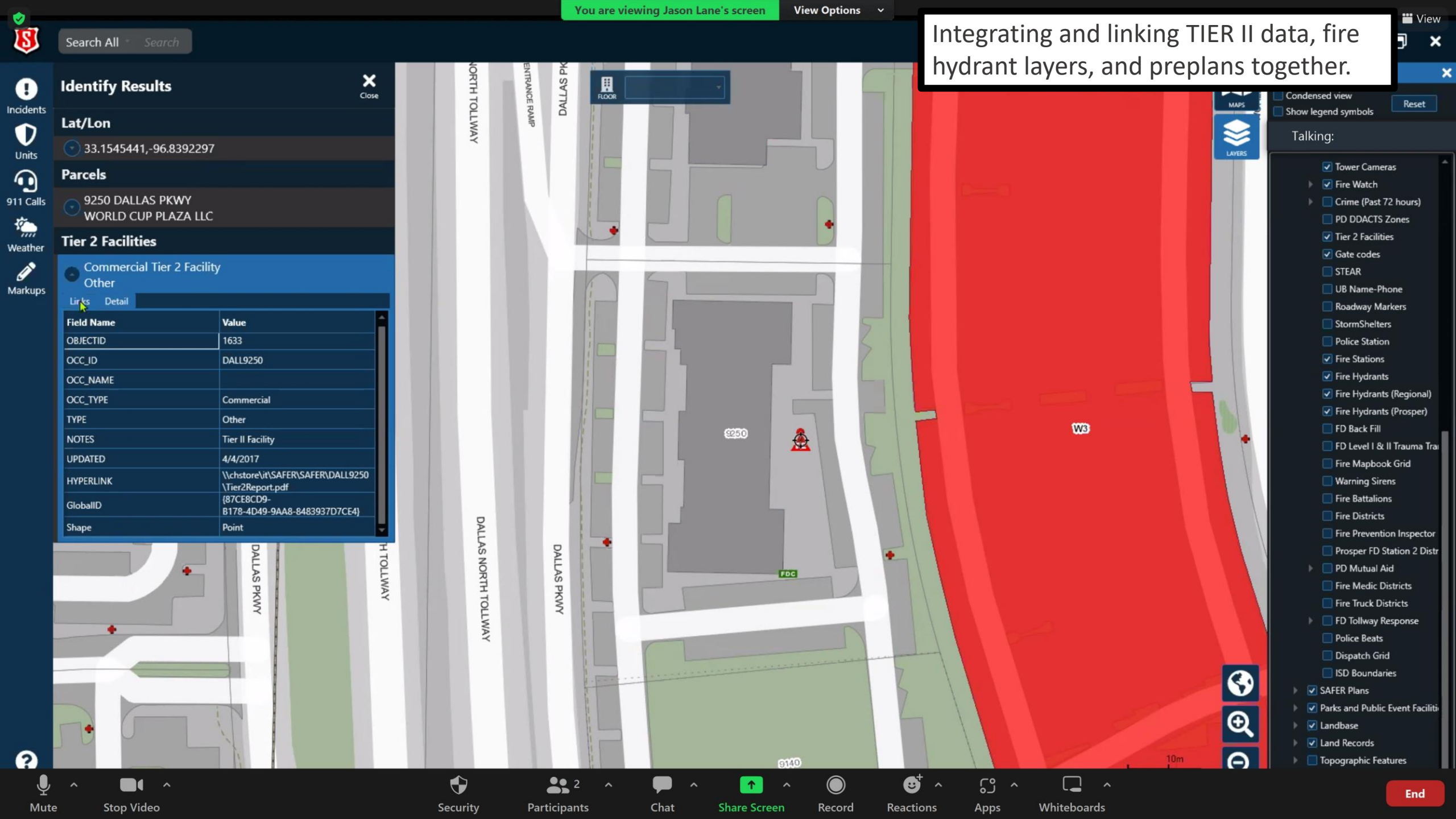
Help

Condensed view Show legend symbols Reset

Talking: Jason Lane

- Tower Cameras
- Fire Watch
- Crime (Past 72 hours)
- PD DDACTS Zones
- Tier 2 Facilities
- Gate codes
- STEAR
- UB Name-Phone
- Roadway Markers
- StormShelters
- Police Station
- Fire Stations
- Fire Hydrants
- Fire Hydrants (Regional)
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- FD Back Fill
- FD Level I & II Trauma Tra
- Fire Mapbook Grid
- Warning Sirens
- Fire Battalions
- Fire Districts
- Fire Prevention Inspector
- Prosper FD Station 2 Distr
- PD Mutual Aid
- Fire Medic Districts
- Fire Truck Districts
- FD Tollway Response
- Police Beats
- Dispatch Grid
- ISD Boundaries
- SAFER Plans
- Parks and Public Event Faciliti
- Landbase
- Land Records
- Topographic Features
- Public and Franchise Utilities

Integrating and linking TIER II data, fire hydrant layers, and preplans together.



Search All Search

### Identify Results

Close

Lat/Lon  
33.1545441, -96.8392297

Parcels  
9250 DALLAS PKWY  
WORLD CUP PLAZA LLC

Tier 2 Facilities  
Commercial Tier 2 Facility  
Other

Field Name	Value
OBJECTID	1633
OCC_ID	DALL9250
OCC_NAME	
OCC_TYPE	Commercial
TYPE	Other
NOTES	Tier II Facility
UPDATED	4/4/2017
HYPERLINK	\\chstore\it\SAFER\SAFER\DALL9250 \Tier2Report.pdf
GlobalID	{87CE8CD9- B178-4D49-9AA8-8483937D7CE4}
Shape	Point

Condensed view Show legend symbols Reset

- Talking:
- Tower Cameras
  - Fire Watch
  - Crime (Past 72 hours)
  - PD DDACTS Zones
  - Tier 2 Facilities
  - Gate codes
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  - Parks and Public Event Faciliti
  - Landbase
  - Land Records
  - Topographic Features

Integrating and linking TIER II data, fire hydrant layers, and preplans together.

Talking: Jason Lane

**CITY OF FRISCO - SAFER PRE-PLAN**

Occupancy Name: PANTHER CREEK WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT Previous Date: 03/13/2018  
 Address: 1825 Panther Creek Road Suite: Occupancy ID: PANT1825  
 Station: 6 District: 6 Zone: C07B Phone: 214-872-4932 Property ID: PANT1825

**OCCUPANCY**  
 Medium: 500 Daytime: 13 Nighttime: 1 Weekend: 5  
 Floors Above: 1 Floors Below: 1

**BUILDING**

Fixed Property Use	Building Status	Construction Type	Roof Type
000-099 Property Use, Other	0 - Other	0 - Undetermined	0 - Roof Covering Undetermined/Not R
100-199 Assembly	1 - Under construction	1 - Fire Resistive	1 - Tile (clay, cement, slate, etc.)
200-299 Educational	2 - In normal use	2 - Heavy Timber	2 - Composition Shingles
300-399 Health Care, Detention & Corr	3 - Idle, not routinely used	3 - Protected Non-combustible	3 - Wood Shakes/Shingles (Treated)
400-499 Residential	4 - Under major renovation	4 - Unprotected Non-combust	4 - Wood Shakes/Shingles (Untreated)
500-599 Mercantile, Business	5 - Vacant and secured	5 - Protected Ordinary	6 - Metal
600-699 Industrial, Utility, Defense, Agri	6 - Vacant and unsecured	6 - Unprotected Ordinary	7 - Built-Up
700-799 Manufacturing, Processing	7 - Being demolished	7 - Protected Wood Frame	8 - Structure Without Roof
800-899 Storage	U - Undetermined	8 - Unprotected Wood Frame	9 - Roof Covering Not Class
900-999 Outside or Special Property		9 - Not Classified	

648 - Sanitation utility 2 - In normal use 4 - Unprotected Non-combust 6 - Metal

**FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM**

Extinguishment System	Detector Type	Fire Pump
0 - Special hazard, Other	0 - Detector type, Other	Capacity: N/A gpm
1 - Wet-pipe sprinkler	1 - Smoke	Mark location on floor plan
11 - Wet-pipe sprinkler with	2 - Heat	
12 - Wet-pipe sprinkler with	3 - Combination smoke & heat in a single unit	
13 - Wet-pipe sprinkler with dr	4 - Sprinkler, water flow detection	
6 - Halogen type	5 - More than one type present	
61 - Clean Agent	U - Undetermined	
7 - Carbon dioxide		
U - Undetermined		

N - None Present U - Undetermined

**NOTES**

**Aerial Ladder Considerations:**  
 Dirt road leading up to main gate. Concrete drive next to or around every building.

**Fire Protection Notes:**  
 Fire Control Panel Location/Notes: Located in main office building. Its the 1st building to the West once you drive through the main gate.  
 Account number 94-6893

**Forcible Entry Notes: (Include Secondary Access Points)**  
 Main gate is controlled by opticom. Steel doors throughout complex.

**Rescue Notes: (Include Children, Elderly, Bedridden, Handicapped)**  
 None

**Road and Parking Lot Conditions: (Include Fire Lanes)**  
 Good concrete throughout complex with new paint.

Occupancy Name: PANTHER CREEK WASTEWATER Occupancy PANT1825 Previous 03/13/2018

**Other General Notes:**  
 Aeration Basins - zero buoyancy tanks - nothing floats and everything will sink to the bottom - tank is open and is not covered.  
 Primary Clarifier Tank - Covered Tank where raw sewage is brought in  
 Secondary Clarifier Tanks - Uncovered Tank Containing sewage in the process  
 UV Building - Cannot look directly at the UV light without special glasses or mask  
 Generator contains 3000 gallons of diesel fuel

**AED | Emergency Oxygen:**  
 AED Battery Expiration: AED Pad Expiration: Emergency Oxygen Expiration:

**UTILITY PROVIDERS**

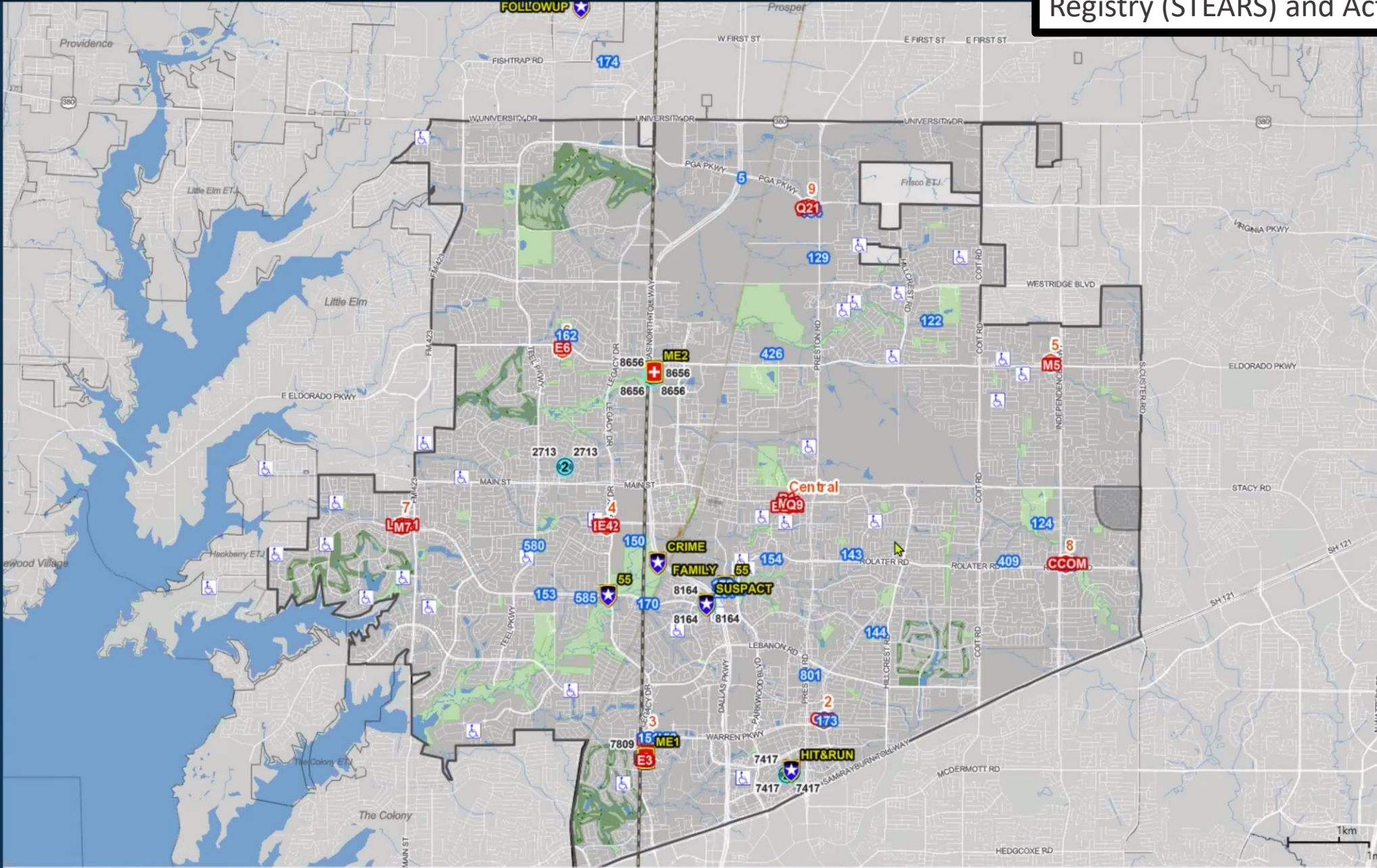
TYPE	NAME	PHONE
Electric Company	Coserv	800-274-4014
Gas Company	Coserv	800-274-4014
Security Company	None	000-000-0000

# State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEARs) and Active Calls



Search All Search

- Incidents
- Units
- 911 Calls
- Weather
- Markups



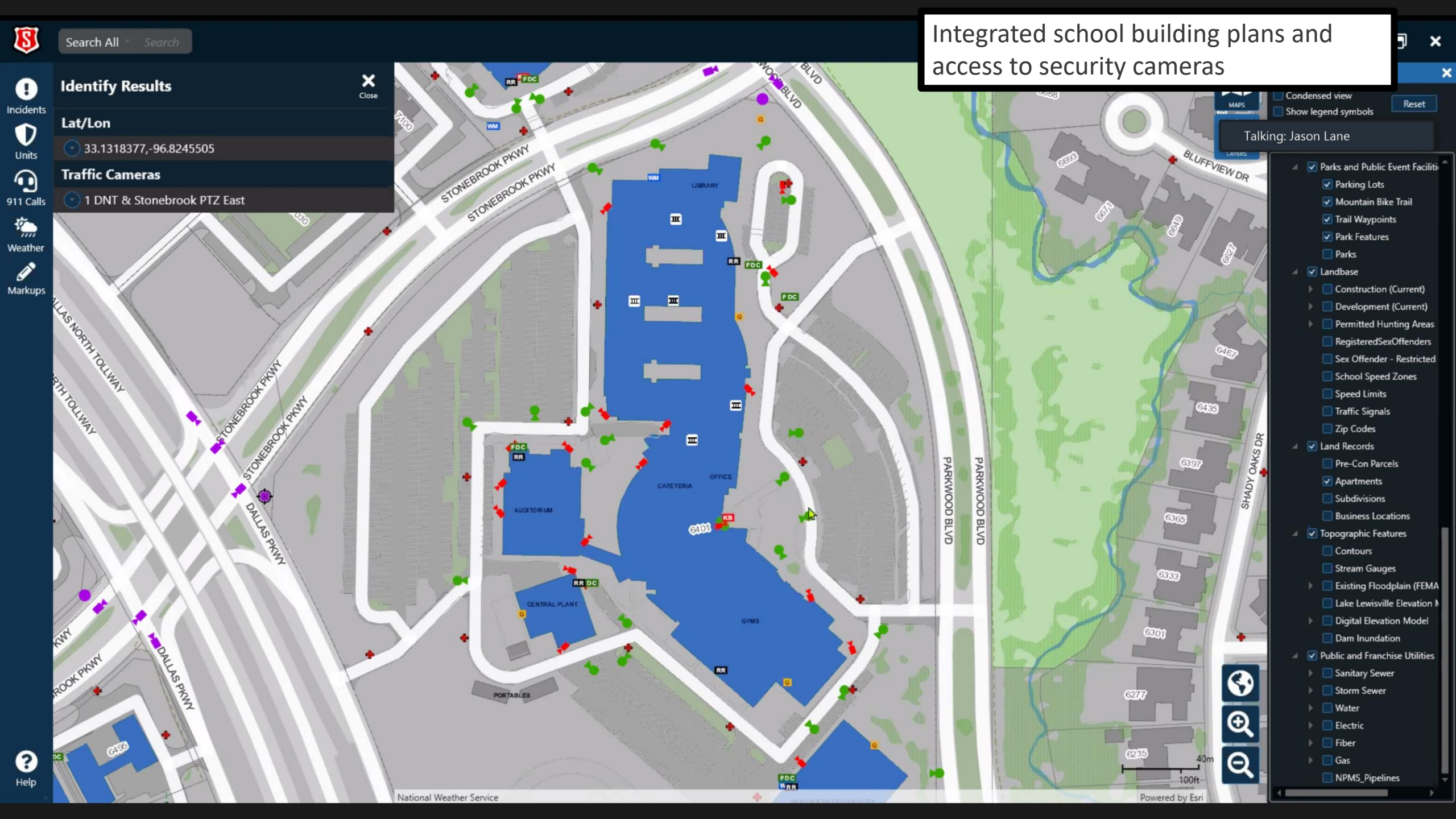
Condensed view Show legend symbols Reset

Talking: Jason Lane

- Layers
  - Points of Interest
  - Emergency Response
    - Traffic Cameras
    - Tower Cameras
    - Fire Watch
    - Crime (Past 72 hours)
    - PD DDACTS Zones
    - Tier 2 Facilities
    - Gate codes
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    - Fire Prevention Inspector
    - Prosper FD Station 2 Distr
    - PD Mutual Aid
    - Fire Medic Districts
    - Fire Truck Districts
    - FD Tollwav Responce

Help

Integrated school building plans and access to security cameras



Search All Search

### Identify Results

Close

Lat/Lon  
33.1318377, -96.8245505

Traffic Cameras  
1 DNT & Stonebrook PTZ East

- Incidents
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- Help

Condensed view Show legend symbols Reset

Talking: Jason Lane

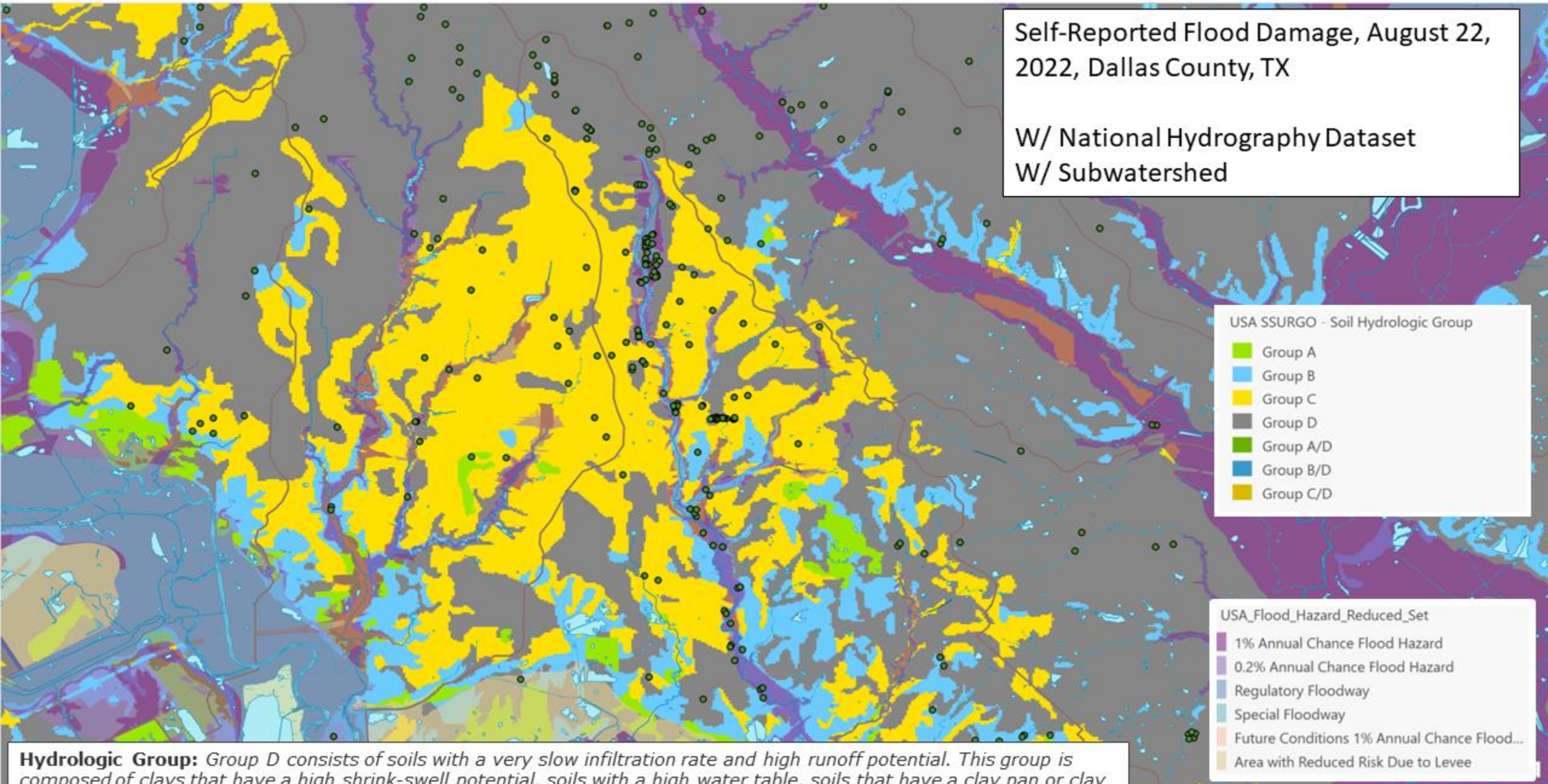
- Parks and Public Event Facilities
  - Parking Lots
  - Mountain Bike Trail
  - Trail Waypoints
  - Park Features
  - Parks
- Landbase
  - Construction (Current)
  - Development (Current)
  - Permitted Hunting Areas
  - RegisteredSexOffenders
  - Sex Offender - Restricted
  - School Speed Zones
  - Speed Limits
  - Traffic Signals
  - Zip Codes
- Land Records
  - Pre-Con Parcels
  - Apartments
  - Subdivisions
  - Business Locations
- Topographic Features
  - Contours
  - Stream Gauges
  - Existing Floodplain (FEMA)
  - Lake Lewisville Elevation M
  - Digital Elevation Model
  - Dam Inundation
- Public and Franchise Utilities
  - Sanitary Sewer
  - Storm Sewer
  - Water
  - Electric
  - Fiber
  - Gas
  - NPMS\_Pipelines

# Texas Division of Emergency Management's (TDEM) iSTAT and pSTAT

- The State of Texas Assessment Tool is TDEM's system for recording damage and tracks impacts to residences, businesses, and public infrastructure through iSTAT and pSTAT
- iSTAT gathers Initial Damage Assessment information and assess the scope and size of an event impacting residences and businesses.
- pSTAT collects location, severity and costs associated with public infrastructure losses.

Self-Reported Flood Damage, August 22,  
2022, Dallas County, TX

W/ National Hydrography Dataset  
W/ Subwatershed



USA SSURGO - Soil Hydrologic Group

- Group A
- Group B
- Group C
- Group D
- Group A/D
- Group B/D
- Group C/D

USA\_Flood\_Hazard\_Reduced\_Set

- 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
- 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
- Regulatory Floodway
- Special Floodway
- Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood...
- Area with Reduced Risk Due to Levee

**Hydrologic Group:** *Group D consists of soils with a very slow infiltration rate and high runoff potential. This group is composed of clays that have a high shrink-swell potential, soils with a high water table, soils that have a clay pan or clay layer at or near the surface, and soils that are shallow over nearly impervious material.*

# GIS Challenges

## **Silos / Department Structure**

- Communication/Limited Subject Matter Expertise

## **Smaller Jurisdictions**

- Less resources
- Smaller staff
- Overworked

## **Larger Jurisdictions**

- Overworked
- More departments
- Longer chains of command

## **Leadership may not see the value**



# Questions / Comments

[urbandatalabs.com](http://urbandatalabs.com)



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