

# MAPS matter to EMERGENCY RESPONSE

GIS technologies help emergency responders save lives and make better informed decisions.

## HERE ARE JUST A FEW EXAMPLES:

- ❖ *Create preplans that provide safe choices when fighting fires*
- ❖ *Know where hazardous materials are stored*
- ❖ *Provide intimate knowledge of new areas during mutual aid events*
- ❖ *Ensure search and rescue operations are thorough*
- ❖ *Identify effective evacuation routes*

Are all levels of government working together to create maps that save lives?

**THERE IS A CRITICAL NEED** to coordinate GIS activities. Coordination eliminates waste and improves efficiency. Government agencies carry out the day-to-day tasks of reducing crime, enhancing public safety, containing costs, managing growth, improving accountability and protecting the environment. Nearly all of them rely on geographic information systems (GIS) technology to make decisions that directly affect citizens and determine our quality of life.

Be a leader and a champion in your community for GIS coordination.

Start by visiting <http://50states.nsgic.org>.  
Then follow-up with the person listed to the right.



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Iowa Geographic  
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**IOWA**  
geographic information council

**NSGIC**  
National Geographic Society  
National Geographic Society

# Fifty States INITIATIVE

The Fifty States Initiative is a partnership between the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) and the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC). It is designed to bring all public and private stakeholders together in statewide GIS coordination bodies that help to form effective partnerships and lasting relationships. The following criteria were established by NSGIC to improve the effectiveness of coordination efforts. They are important at all levels of government.



- 1 Strategic and Business Plans serve to guide the enterprise
- 2 A full-time, paid coordinator position is designated and has the authority to implement business and strategic plans.
- 3 A clearly defined authority exists for coordination of geospatial information technologies and data production.
- 4 The coordination office has a formal relationship with the Chief Information Officer (or similar office).
- 5 A champion (politician or executive decision-maker) is aware and involved in the process of coordination.
- 6 Responsibilities for developing your part of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure and a Clearinghouse are assigned.
- 7 The ability exists to work and coordinate with other levels of government, academia, utilities, and the private sector.
- 8 Sustainable funding sources exist to meet projected needs.
- 9 Coordinators have the authority to enter into contracts and become capable of receiving and expending funds.
- 10 The Federal government works through statewide coordinating authorities to reach all sectors.