



Southeast Regional Operations Platform Pilot: Phase II

A component of Virtual USA

Southeast Regional Operations Platform Pilot Phase II

The Southeast Regional Operations Platform Pilot (SE ROPP) is a regional information-sharing pilot sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate's (S&T) Virtual USA (vUSA) initiative. S&T is working with states to develop a regional capability to improve situational awareness and decision-making processes during emergencies and day-to-day operations. The primary goal of the SE ROPP is to create a scalable and replicable model that seamlessly integrates disparate information management applications to enable more effective multi-jurisdictional, multi-disciplinary incident management operations.

The SE ROPP is a working regional model for the vUSA information-sharing initiative, which seeks to develop a national capability for seamless information exchange that will improve real-time operations. Since February 2009, SE ROPP participants collaboratively have developed a regional model for information sharing that leverages existing and emerging technologies and Web 2.0 tools. The first phase of the SE ROPP culminated in a proof of concept demonstration in November 2009 at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Response Coordination Center (NRCC) in Washington, D.C.

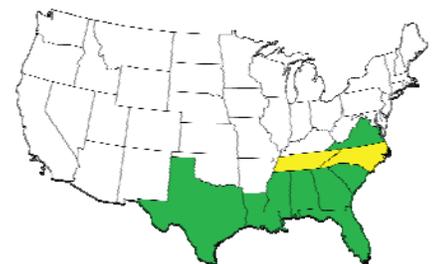
The second phase of the SE ROPP (SE ROPP II) will develop a regional operations capability for incident management in participating jurisdictions from January-July 2010. The scope of SE ROPP II includes four key elements:

1. Develop a second-generation prototype for information sharing.
 - a. Test and evaluate the operational capability of the prototype by June 2010.
2. Continue to expand, test, and evaluate geospatial file format integration.
3. Continue to institutionalize vUSA among participating jurisdictions.
 - a. Draft and adopt a regional memorandum of agreement (MOA).
 - b. Establish a commonality for information exchanged (e.g., incident typology, metadata, data layers, terminology).
4. Operationalize vUSA among participating jurisdictions.
 - a. Identify what the region needs to be better prepared by integrating the vUSA concept throughout business operations.

SE ROPP II Participants

State: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina (observing), South Carolina, Tennessee (observing), Texas, and Virginia

Federal: DHS S&T, FEMA Region IV, Incident Management Systems Integration Division (IMSID), the Emergency Services Sector (ESS), Sector Coordinating Council (SCC), and the State, Local, Tribal and Territorial Government Coordinating Council (SLTTGCC)



SE ROPP Participant Success Stories

Discover Mississippi

Mississippi's Office of Homeland Security developed and publicly launched Discover Mississippi in April 2009 as a result of the collective efforts and momentum garnered from SE ROPP. Discover Mississippi was used during a lifesaving mission to recover a lost hunter on January 19, 2010.

GATOR

Florida's Division of Emergency Management developed and publicly launched a visualization platform known as the Geospatial Assessment Tool for Operations and Response (GATOR) in the summer of 2009. Four days after the NRCC demonstration on November 4, 2009, GATOR was operationalized to manage coordination efforts with Hurricane Ida from the state Emergency Operations Center.

GO DAWGS

Georgia Governor Sonny Purdue used Virginia's visualization platform to help manage coordination and response to floods in Atlanta in the summer of 2009. The Georgia Emergency Management Agency developed Georgia Online Disaster Awareness Geospatial System (GO DAWGS) following the collective efforts and momentum garnered from SE ROPP. Georgia will publicly launch GO DAWGS in summer of 2010.

SE ROPP Participant Testimonials

"The process of going through the ROPP significantly benefited the State of Georgia. The networking with other state counterparts alone is paying substantial dividends. Through the collaborative efforts and information sharing with other participants, Georgia will be rolling out a low-cost and highly effective operating platform in the next few weeks. This platform will serve to share information regionally as a result of the SE ROPP." – *Dan Stowers, Planning Director, Georgia Emergency Management Agency*

"Virtual USA's promotion of information sharing between localities, between states, and across all levels of government and related non-government emergency partners almost certainly will result in better preparedness for the response and recovery processes in a crisis." – *Harry Colestock, Director of Operations, Virginia Department of Emergency Management*

"The communication between the [ROPP] states allowed for a collaborative effort in helping each other succeed. Louisiana has used Virtual Louisiana for search and rescue efforts—once to find a lost child, a girl, who was gone for roughly 20 hours from Tangipahoe Parish back in 2007." – *Travis Johns, IT Branch Manager/Applications & Databases, Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, Louisiana*

"Our county was thrilled at the opportunity to be involved in a project that will not only change the ability to share data of live time events between neighboring counties, but to be able to share with regional, state, and eventually national levels." – *David Vernon, MSAG Manager, Pittsylvania County (Virginia) Department of Emergency Management*

For more information on vUSA, please visit www.firstresponder.gov/virtualusa.



Developed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Science & Technology Directorate's Command, Control and Interoperability Division, in partnership with the response community, Virtual USA creates a cost-effective nationwide capability to significantly improve information sharing and decision making during emergencies and day-to-day operations.