



News Release

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County Trains Local Agencies on New Damage Assessment Technology

FAYETTEVILLE, NC – Assessing and tracking storm damage in Cumberland County has been enhanced with the purchase and implementation of new technology.

Following after-action review recommendations from the April 2011 tornadoes, Cumberland County purchased damage assessment software. The GeoCove ARM360 technology will help the county and local municipalities utilize GIS data to inventory and assess damages in the event of storms or other natural disasters.

The county's GIS and Information Services staff worked closely with GeoCove to deploy the application and train staff from the following agencies: Cumberland County Emergency Services, Sheriff's Office, Tax Administration, and Planning & Inspections; City of Fayetteville Fire, Police, Inspections and GIS departments; and Spring Lake and Hope Mills Inspections Departments.

The program allows first responders and building assessment teams to track damages throughout the community and determine damages, which will create a more efficient initial assessment to be used by county, state and federal governments in providing assistance.

"The first responders could really see the benefit of the application and the improvements it will provide to our public safety efforts during a disaster," said Mary Ann Steinmetz, Cumberland County GIS Analyst.

Building inspectors and tax appraisal staff work as the second wave of responders following a disaster, Steinmetz said, and are responsible for marking structures with different levels of damage. The new technology provides tax office and inspections staff the ability to sync their input from the field back to the website monitored by Emergency Services during an event.

Many building inspectors and tax appraisal staff who attended training worked the tornadoes last spring and could see the benefits.

"They appreciated the speed of marking damaged structures and the ability to generate quick reports of lost tax values for FEMA," she said.

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