

February 2025 MEMA – GAC Update

As a reminder, or for those who don't know, I am the acting GIS liaison to MEMA from the Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council (GAC). The Council acts as a coordinating body for the Minnesota geospatial community. It represents a cross-section of organizations that include counties, cities, universities, business, nonprofit organizations, federal and state agencies, tribal government, surveyors and other stakeholder groups that benefit from geospatial technology.

Committee highlights from our last GAC Meeting in December 2024:

3D Geomatics Committee

- R&D work developing protocols for data architecture, efficient data storage and dissemination, and lidar-derived products.
- Note that MnTopo-1 still references legacy data.

Contributing to Nationwide and Commercial Data Assets Committee

- Successfully shared Centerlines and Address Points from 10 counties with the Esri Community Maps.
- This data is now being used in the Esri World Geocoding Service.

Emergency Preparedness Committee

- Development of a mapping application to aggregate interagency utility geospatial data, FuzionView (fuzionview.org), 90% complete and has passed Beta certification.

Ramsey County Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt was honored for her contributions to making GIS a priority with legislators. Some of her contributions include -

- Founding member of MetroGIS and was an active leader of the policy board
- A member of the Governor's Council on GIS, precursor to the GAC
- Involved with the GAC for 15 years, since its inception in 2009
- Testified to congress about GIS and its collaborative role in supporting policy
- Provides the perspective and guidance of an elected official to the GAC

Commissioner Reinhardt will be replaced on the GAC by Washington County Commissioner Michelle Clasen.

Full details can be found here: <https://www.mngeo.state.mn.us/councils/statewide/index.html>

Additionally, this spring the EPC will be sponsoring “Hazmat: The First Hour”. Dates and Location TBD.

I will send more information once I have it. All are welcome to attend!

Minnesota Department of Public Safety State Fire Marshal Division

“HAZMAT THE FIRST HOUR”

What is it?

This training will focus on important safety considerations related to the transportation of oil and hazardous commodities through your community and the response of State Emergency Response Teams. The State Fire Marshal Division encourages departments, mutual aid partners and agencies with hazardous material facilities and transportation through their communities to schedule a training.

Who is it for?

- Fire departments
- Police departments
- Emergency management agencies
- Sheriffs' departments
- Emergency medical services
- City and County appointed officials



Topics

- The basics of hazmat and scene safety.
- Safety awareness for surface transportation (highway, rail, pipeline)
- AskRail Mobile App
- Placards and identification of hazardous materials.
- Who to call and how to request the State Emergency Response Teams.



How much is it?

The cost of this class is at no charge.

When is it?

Dates and times are flexible based on your department or agency's needs.

How long is it?

Two - Three hours based on department/agency needs.