

EMGCP Meeting – Summer 2025

August 20, 2025 | 13:00 – 14:00

Emergency Management Geomatics Community of Practice (EMGCP)

Attendees PS GOC Geomatics, PS GOC OSINT, RCMP, PSPC, ESDC, ISED, DND CJOC, DND MCE, StatCan, CFIA, Transport Canada, NRCAN EGS, PS REID

Location Online - Microsoft Teams

1. Welcome and Introduction

13:01-13:03

Presenter: Darlene Tran (PS GOC)

Description

Welcome and overview of today's meeting agenda.

1.1. Call to Order

Description

The attendance is captured by attendees inputting their name, position, team and department in the meeting chat.

2. National Evacuation Reporting Dataset (NERD)

13:03-13:39

Presenter: Cameron Bouchard, Government Operations Centre (GOC), Public Safety Canada

What is the National Evacuation Reporting Dataset (NERD)?

- Information is received from Public Safety Canada regional offices, provincial emergency management offices, and federal departments like Indigenous Services Canada and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC).
- The current work involves ingesting and collating information into daily reports and cyclical event common operating picture reports.
- This project was brought about to address a current challenge and gap in data availability:
 - The GOC does not retain evacuation information in a database for further analysis.
 - Requests for detailed evacuation data are difficult to fulfill due to the lack of a comprehensive database.
 - The Geomatics team decided to create a system to standardize and catalog evacuation data.
 - Research was conducted with partners like NRCAN and the Canadian Wildfire Information Service to understand their methods.

Proposed System and Data Collection

- The new system will collect evacuation data from provinces and territories, standardizing it into a single database.
- The system will include automated translation of information between French and English.
- The dataset will be accessible to all members of the GOC and partners for mapping and statistical analysis.
- The system will scrape digital information and manually enter data not available digitally.

Data Entry and Translation Process

- Provinces like BC, Alberta, and Manitoba provide digital feeds, while others provide information in PDFs, Word docs, or emails.
- The GOC will enter information into a standardized form, including geography and jurisdictional boundaries.
- The system will include automated translation and record the source language for accuracy.
- The dataset will be available in both polygon and point representations for mapping purposes.

Daily Reporting and Archiving

- Daily and monthly archives will be created to answer detailed questions from senior management.
- The dataset will be pushed out to all users, including internal and external partners.
- The system will be used for reporting, web maps, and common operating picture products.
- The GOC will provide static maps and geographic information to provinces and territories lacking the resources to create their own feeds.

Final Thoughts and Future Plans

- Senior management has expressed interest and concerns about the data's accuracy and potential misuse.
- The system will tabulate information already available on provincial and territorial websites.
- The GOC will not report evacuation counts unless provided by the source.
- The system will not include historical data to avoid misinformation and labor requirements.
- The GOC has conducted extensive consultation and hired a programmer for the project.

- The system will be launched preliminarily in the fall, with ongoing consultation and development.

2.1. Q&A

Q: Can the dataset be synced for offline mobile mapping devices, such as field maps?

A: The dataset will be accessible on ArcGIS Online and can be downloaded as a table to use offline or for other organization's needs and purposes.

Q: What does an activation mean and entail?

A: Public Safety Canada is responsible for overseeing emergency management (EM) at a national level. Each department has their own plan based on that master plan. There is Canadian Forest Service (CFS) for example. Whenever a new event occurs, the Government Operations Centre (GOC) reaches out to NRCan EGS to activate our emergency services in response to that specific event.

3. Open Source Intelligence Team (OSINT)

13:39-14:02

Presenters: Rachel Wylie and Richa Kewalramani, Government Operations Centre (GOC), Public Safety Canada

Introduction to OSINT Team

- The goal of this presentation is to provide a high-level overview of the current OSINT capability at the GOC.
- Open Source Intelligence plays an important role in today's information environment, highlighting its role in maintaining situational awareness and supporting decision-makers.
- The OSINT team was established in late 2024 to address the need for a dedicated capability to support emergency management.

OSINT Role and Responsibilities

- The team's responsibilities, include early warning of emerging events, maintaining situational awareness, and identifying critical issues.
- The team provides insights that support the creation of GOC products and key points for senior leadership.
- Rachel explains the development of the Open Project tool in 2025 to enhance the team's capabilities.
- The team operates within a framework that is legal, transparent, and ethical, focusing on publicly available information.

Core Products and Dashboard

- Rachel introduces the team's core products: reports focusing on emerging issues and incident snapshots for specific events.
- Rachel briefly demonstrates the dashboard, which centralizes first alert findings, analyst reports, and incident snapshots in real-time.
- The dashboard integrates with ESRI and Power BI, providing easy access to reports and snapshots for partners and public safety regional offices.
- Rachel highlights the benefits of the dashboard, including reduced duplication of effort and improved accessibility for partners.

Open Project Tool and Its Benefits

- Rachel introduces the Open Project tool, which automates a large share of the collection phase and reduces repetitive work.
- Richa takes over to present the Open Project tool, explaining its development to improve early alerting and situational awareness.
- The tool has four main automated collection channels: morning collections, government news monitoring, incident detection, and on-demand collections.
- Once data is collected, it feeds directly into analysis and reporting, providing structured reports tailored to Public Safety's mandate.

Automated Workflow and Use Cases

- Richa explains the automated workflow of the Open Project tool, from data collection to analysis and reporting.
- The tool generates situational reports and snapshots, with analysts initiating requests through a simple form.
- Richa highlights two use cases: gathering information for a report shared with the Deputy Minister of Public Safety and generating a quick first draft of the Adams Cove snapshot.
- The tool supports continuous real-time monitoring through automated streams, ensuring timely detection of critical incidents.

Stakeholder Access and Future Plans

- Richa demonstrates the stakeholder view of the prototype dashboard, which provides external access in real-time.
- The prototype integrates with DeepL API for automatic French translation, ensuring accessible information sharing across partners.
- Rachel and Richa thank the audience for their attention and invite questions about the project.

3.1. Q&A

Q: Where can we find the link to the OSINT Dashboard for external stakeholders?

A: Yes, dashboard link can be shared with external stakeholders. Please reach out to the OSINT team's email at gocosint-rosocog@ps-sp.gc.ca for further inquiries. In the meantime, if they have an Operations Center Information Portal (OCIP) account, all OSINT content is also populated in OCIP.

6. Adjournment

14:02-14:08

Presenter: Darlene Tran (PS GOC)

Thank you to everyone who were able to make it to this meeting!

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on November 19th, 2025 at 1pm virtually on Microsoft Teams.

Feel free to reach out to Darlene Tran if you have any topics you would like to present at the next meeting.

Wishing everyone a great end of summer!