

GIS Mapping Project Status Update

Intro

This article provides an update to our South Skyline Area neighbors on this important project sponsored by La Honda Fire with financial support from SSEPO, SSA, and others. Planning phase is now complete and the project is operational with data collection underway.

What is the project all about?

Providing first responders with up-to-date neighborhood and individual property access information that is critical during emergency situations. The maps include property level details such as structure locations, obstacles or barriers, gated areas, water sources, fire hydrants, availability of fire sprinkler systems, critical driveway distance to structures information and more.

Why should I care?

Current processes use outdated paper mapping systems that often detail incomplete or missing important fire fighting information altogether. This project replaces this paper system with an easy-to-update electronic solution that can be immediately accessed by first responders in both offline and online modes.

In the event of an emergency, first responders could expect to:

- Reduce emergency vehicle arrival times
- Help ensure accurate arrival on scene
- Avoid navigation errors
- Improve situational awareness and results
- Improve impact of onsite delivery of emergency services
- Generally improved overall effectiveness and efficiency.

And before an emergency ever strikes, they can:

- Develop Pre-Suppression Plans to better understand specific areas and how to proceed
- Increase their overall knowledge of required response criteria
- Identify areas of need for better planning and preplan resource staging
- Identification and location of other resources that could be used in the event of an emergency.

Areas currently mapped:

Phase One data collection is now occurring or has been completed in the following areas:

- Las Cumbres
- Portola Heights
- Castanea Ridge
- Rosemary Lane
- Monkey Rock
- Rocky Creek/Clouds Rest

- Cuesta La Honda.

What information is being collected at the residential level?

Data collected includes information that is key for responders so that they can quickly locate and respond as needed. Included are property addresses, restricted access areas, length of driveway, structures, availability of fire sprinklers, location of electrical shutoffs, water sources, special needs, etc.

Progress thus far:

The “phase one” planning stage is now finalized and mapping is occurring in various neighborhoods. Hardware and software including iPads and software map access are becoming available to our firefighters. Las Cumbres SouthSkyline Fire & Rescue became the first local fire department to receive their tools and has placed them into operation. Other fire departments will be deploying soon!

Who supports this project?

- La Honda Fire Brigade
- CalFire – Felton, Saratoga-Summit, Skylonda
- SouthSkyline Fire & Rescue
- Kings Mountain Fire Brigade
- South Skyline Emergency Preparedness Organization
- South Skyline Association
- Various neighborhoods where mapping is completed or underway

What can I do?

Get involved today! Visit <http://www.SSEPO.com> and locate your neighborhood coordinator to set an appointment. If you don't know or cannot find a neighborhood coordinator for your area, or if you have questions, contact Peggy Wargo at 650.839.3933 or La Honda Fire at GIS@lahondafire.org for more information.

