



City of Bethany: Mapping Out Storm Shelters

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Abstract

While cities understand the importance of mapping out storm shelters, finding the right program that will work for their city can be difficult. This is especially true when trying to find a program that can be **utilized immediately after a disaster**. The City of Bethany wanted a program that would be used well into the future, while remaining user friendly. After researching the various mapping programs that are currently out there as well as speaking with various cities in the region, MARPLOT was chosen as the best fit. MARPLOT is a unique tool that is designed to be used for various firefighting and emergency management purposes, including chemical spills. This program allows not only mapping out the storm shelters, but also mapping out parking complaints as well as updating the zoning map. Through the usage of the program it has proven to be an efficient and viable option.

Introduction

The City of Bethany wanted to be able to map out the storm shelters within the city limits, and with this being able to update the map on their own. **The city does not have GIS**, so in order for the map to be updated, the program would have to be something the city could easily have access to. After talking to several agencies as well as a few different cities, there was a mention of MARPLOT being very user friendly, something most fire and emergency management officials can use for other purposes as well.

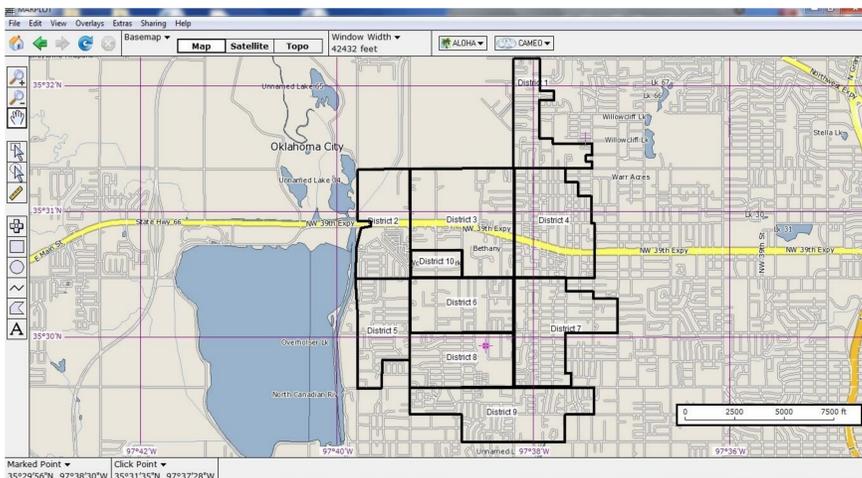


Figure 1. Bethany Fire Districts

Methods

MARPLOT is a mapping application that is a part of the CAMEO software suite. CAMEO is a system of software applications that is used to respond to chemical emergencies. The software suite is very versatile, and can be used for just about anything, including wild fires.

The CAMEO software suite was developed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), to assist emergency planners and responders.

MARPLOT was the perfect tool because it was **user-friendly**, available **without internet** connection, and can be used immediately after a disaster. An additional benefit is that the fire chief has used this program before.

Results

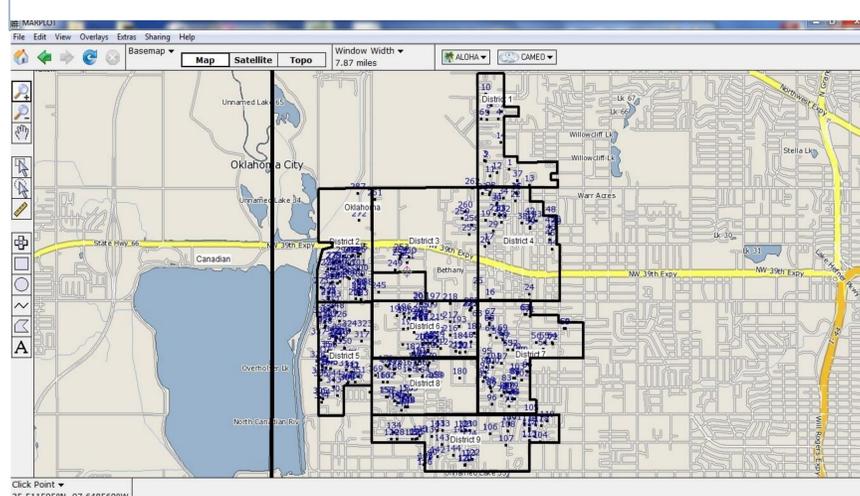


Figure 2. All Storm Shelters in city limits

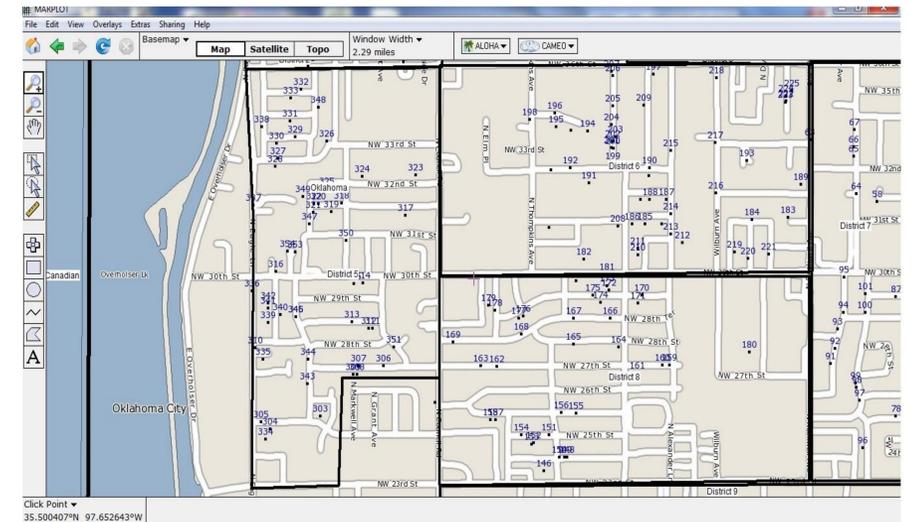


Figure 3. Storm Shelters in one fire district

Discussion

MARPLOT allows the selection of one area, where it can tell the number of people and households within that area.

There is the possibility of adding in assessor data as well in order to have an approximate home value within a certain area.

MARPLOT allows the user to use the map view, satellite view, or topography view.

Interacts well with CAMEO, ALOHA, and CAMEO Chemical.

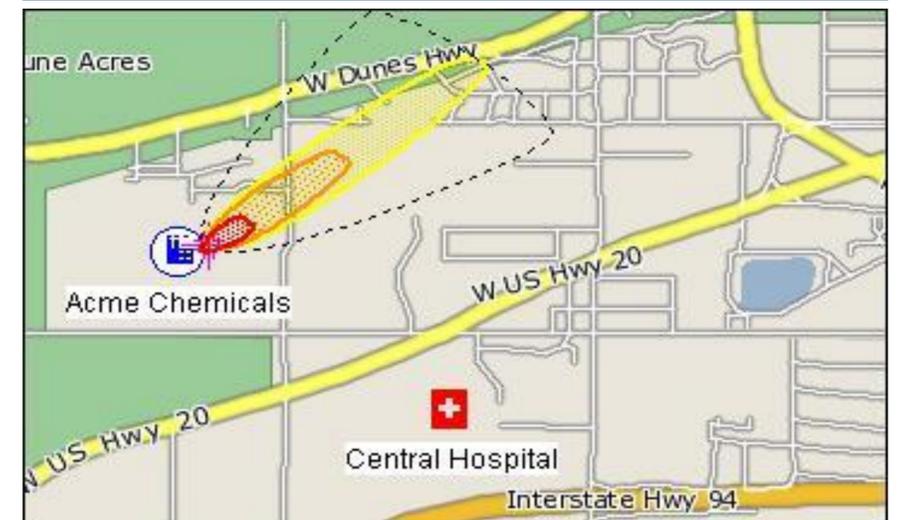


Figure 4. CAMEO/ALOHA/MARPLOT integrated example
response.restoration.noaa.gov

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