EIS International, Rockville, Md., recently implemented a real-time system to help better track emergency information. EIS uses data, maps, models and communication to deliver emergency data to emergency professionals for rescue and repair operations.

EIS works with GeoLink from Georesearch, Inc., Vienna, Va., to transmit real-time, on-the-scene data. "When we're trying to respond to a particular incident, we need information fast," explains EIS President James W. Morentz.

GeoLink provides EIS with background maps, as well as information about emergency type, extent of damage, location and elevation. GeoResearch and EIS employees worked together during Hurricane Andrew and the 1993 Midwest floods to provide data to emergency professionals. "EIS users have a vast fund of essential emergency readiness at their fingertips," comments GeoResearch President Doug Richardson. "Now ... they can update that information on the scene, creating dynamic maps, which change as fast as the real world does."

EIS also uses national data sets from federal agencies, ARC/INFO GIS software from Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc., Redlands, Calif., and MapInfo mapping software from MapInfo Corp., Troy, N.Y.