



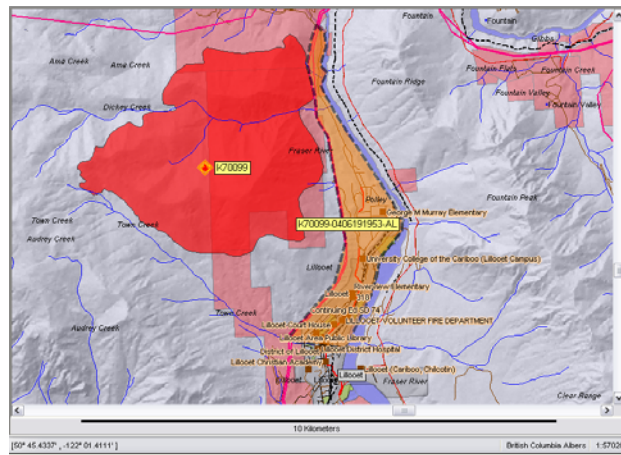
Emergency Management and Evacuation Mapping

Emergency Mapping Geographic Information System (EMGIS)

The OFC has developed a mapping program to deal specifically with interface fire evacuations. This program consists of an Emergency Mapping Geographic Information System and ten mapping specialists. The core functionality of the Emergency Management GIS lies in its ability to display data and provide information relating to an interface fire quickly and effectively.

In addition to conventional topographic and transportation data, the EMGIS data includes.

- Public Buildings
- Addresses
- Census Data
- Gas Pipelines
- BCTC Transmission Lines/Towers
- Telus Transmission Towers
- First Nation Reserves
- Ortho Photos
- Out of Province Data for Alaska, Alberta, Yukon, Montana, Idaho, and Washington.



The application will also allow us to run queries such as:

- Addresses within an Evacuation Area
- Population within an Evacuation Area
- Public Buildings within a given distance of an Evacuation Area

With these results, the OFC and other emergency management professionals can then plan an evacuation area effectively, focusing resources where they are needed the most. Information can be shared instantly with other government agencies such as the RCMP, PEP, and the MOFR to aid in the evacuation.

The Emergency Management GIS also has the capability to run without a network connection to the server. This is done by loading the entire dataset onto the hard drive of the local machine (~17G), and allows the use of the application in the field. The ability to work standalone also facilitates the production of evacuation maps and query results within 5 minutes of the evacuation area being defined.



Google Earth

The OFC is currently evaluating the use of Google Earth Pro for evacuation mapping during the 2006 fire season. Google Earth Pro is a geographic information system that couples 3D terrain models with high and medium resolution satellite imagery. This enables Fire Service Advisors to see the fire and the threatened community in the context of the surrounding topography without the use of expensive topographic maps. Google Earth Pro also allows the OFC to “drape” evacuation areas and fire perimeters over the terrain and export “fly throughs” as movies viewable in Windows Media Player.

