

Public Safety Tools Bulletin

Special points of interest:

- “Nation-wide” view
- Filtered map layers
- Single Sign-on
- Google Maps based
- Multi-State sharing
- FirstNet data needs

Inside Pages;

Transitioning to CASM NextGen **2**

CASM NextGen Access Control **2**

Introducing OEC’s Site Survey Tool **3**

CASM NextGen Familiarization **3**

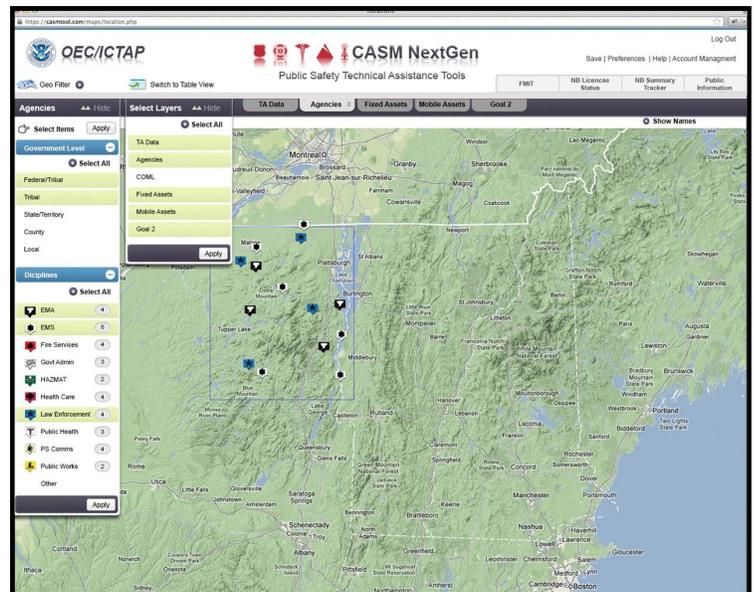
Getting more information **3**

CASM NextGen Release this September

Early this Fall the DHS Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) Interoperable Communication’s Technical Assistance Program (ICTAP) will release a major upgrade to it’s widely used Communication Assets Survey and Mapping (CASM) Tool. The significance of this release is highlighted by a name upgrade as well, “CASM NextGen”. CASM NextGen builds upon previously disparate foundational tools: CASM, the Frequency Mapping Tool, and the SWIC Tool. This release adds new capabilities for collecting data off-line via mobile platforms (the Site Survey Tool), providing Mobile Data Survey Tool Analysis, plotting first order wireless communications coverage maps, and mapping backhaul communications between sites. CASM NextGen will enable the users to overlay multiple layers of geo-referenced data, each with their own filters, and one-click to a table view of that data which supports data review, editing and reporting. Users of OEC’s Public Safety Tools will have a single user name and password for access. First Responder Network (FirstNet) requirements for data collection and analysis are being addressed in this release to support State consultation. CASM NextGen provides a single inte-

grated tool to manage information about communications assets, trained COMU personnel, and Technical Assistance history.

Figure:
Conceptual Design for CASM NextGen Map Layers



CASM NextGen Enables Nationwide Sharing

With the release of CASM NextGen early this Fall, Public Safety Tool users will be able to seamlessly share information across State lines. Authorized users (through assigned functional privileges) will be able to share their state's data with (1) all users of a selected (e.g., neighboring) state or (2) any individual user, and will be able to control edit access of data on the state, county, or agency level. Deployable assets and interoperability channels will be defaulted to be viewable by any user nation-wide.

CASM NextGen Access Control

Access to State-wide information will continue to be controlled by the State-wide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) or their designated Account Manager (AM). As currently, the AM has the ability to further delegate their privileges.

In CASM NextGen, the current CASM AM hierarchy will be preserved from the top-level, state-designated, AM down through all delegated AMs (e.g., regional, county, etc). The AMs will still have the role/responsibility to manage user accounts for their state/region/county and will have the functional privilege (F-PRIV) to create other user accounts. The new F-PRIV that an AM can have (and must be granted by a higher-level AM) is the ability to grant View or Edit privilege to any user of CASM, limited to equal or lower than their own AM access in their home state. This allows users from neighboring states to gain View or Edit privilege to one or more counties of any state to support cross-border analysis.

In CASM NextGen, a user will have one, and only one, "home state" as they have today. They will retain the View privilege to all information in that state. A user's edit privilege will be as it is today, however, a 2nd-tier edit control may restrict users who have state-level access to only being able to edit state-level government agency data (i.e., they may not be able to edit any/all information in the state). Through request and granting process, a user may be granted View and/or Edit privilege to any county in any state by a designated AM from that state who has that level of privilege themselves.

By default, all deployable systems and national interoperability channels will be viewable by all users. AMs are encouraged to share as much information as possible with other users. Likewise Statewide interoperability channels will be viewable by all State users.

All other user access privileges will be transitioned as currently defined.

The image shows a conceptual design for a web form titled "Site Identification and Location" and "Site Design Information". The form is divided into two main sections. The first section, "Site Identification and Location", contains fields for Name (Test Site), Owner (Fred Fredricks), Leased, site lessee (John Johnson), Site survey data collection date (N/A), County (Alabama/Montgomery), Address (4015 Hancock St, San Diego, CA 92110), Elevation (meters) (5), and Remote location special access requirements (spec access). The second section, "Site Design Information", contains fields for Describe site perimeter security (perim sec), Party notified if a security breach is detected at this site (breach notify), Equipped with external lighting (radio buttons: No, Yes, Unknown), Potable water available at the site (radio buttons: No, Yes, Unknown), Maintenance last performed (N/A), Site maintenance schedule (radio buttons: No, Yes, Unknown), Cell phone coverage at the site (radio buttons: No, Yes, Unknown), and RF interference concerns at the site (Check all that apply) with checkboxes for Power Transmission Lines and High Power.

Figure: Conceptual Design for CASM NextGen Site data

“By default, all deployable systems and national interoperability channels will be viewable by all users.”

Transitioning to CASM NextGen

CASM NextGen's upgraded capabilities require that a new database schema be developed. Data from the current CASM database will be transitioned to the new database. All data will all be moved into the new database, with the exception of closed user account information. Data being transitioned includes systems (mobile and fixed), towers, frequencies, agencies, POC, and user account data. In addition public safety agency data will be consolidated to remove duplicates and incorporate a nation-wide data base of information. For the most part SWICs, AMs, and users do not have to do anything special in order to have all their data available in CASM NextGen. The current CASM database will be backed up and available to the CASM Help Desk to resolve any issues that arise. OEC highly recommends that users attend one of the CASM NextGen familiarization Webinars (see below)

“Prior to release OEC's Public Safety Tools team will offer several webinar sessions focused on the use of CASM NextGen. “

Introducing OEC's Site Survey Tool

In conjunction with CASM NextGen, OEC is releasing the Site Survey Tool. This is a mobile application that enables users to capture communications site information to be automatically populated into CASM NextGen. Users may initiate a site survey with pre-populated CASM NextGen data while connected to their network. Users may then travel to a remote site and enter data on their mobile devices (e.g. iPad, Android) while not connected to a wireless access point. Upon returning to their wireless network, the SST will automatically update CASM NextGen with captured data.

CASM NextGen Familiarization

Prior to release OEC's Public Safety Tools team will offer webinar sessions before and after release, focused on the use of CASM NextGen. These classes will not cover introductory material taught in other on-line training, but are structured to help SWICs, AMs, and users to smoothly transition to the new capabilities. The familiarization will assume attendees have a basic understanding of current CASM capabilities and utilization.

Webinar details will be sent by e-mail to all current users.

Getting more information

OEC's Public Safety Tools Website:
<http://publicsafetytools.info>

OEC's CASM Help Desk:
PSToolsHelp@HQ.DHS.GOV