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Addressing Program News <sup>MAY</sup> 29 1991 *pe*

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*In the interest of sharing addressing information more speedily, this news brief will be provided on a monthly basis to regional councils' 9-1-1 coordinators, emergency communications districts, county judges, appraisal districts, and interested parties upon request.*

### State Addressing Subcommittee

The Addressing Advisory Subcommittee is fast approaching the completion of work on funding issues and mapping software guidelines. The Subcommittee met on April 4, during which funding issues were given the most immediate attention. The group will decide how to weigh a county's population, road miles, and the economic wherewithal of a county in order to prudently distribute future funds.

The Subcommittee also will be recommending mapping software guidelines that can be used by counties to help in their decision-making process before purchasing a particular package. The remaining emphasis of the Subcommittee guidelines will focus on data exchange formats for PC-based systems and the ability of the software to use and update the TIGER Line File maps. Guidelines will be submitted to the Commission for acceptance at their next meeting. The next meeting of the Subcommittee will be April 30 in the ACSEC offices.

### Helpful Hints

When volunteer firefighters are not busy making house calls, they can prove to be a valuable asset to a local addressing project. One of the most labor intensive tasks in addressing is verifying county road and structure location. Knowing road locations are tools of the trade for firefighters and other emergency services personnel. Because maps do not always reveal new roads, low-water crossings, or other important features, responders must draw on their knowledge of the area. Their participation is strongly encouraged during map review to inventory roads which will save time and labor in completing an addressing project.

## GIS Update

"A Geographic Information System (GIS) is a computerized system designed to capture, store, process, analyze, and manipulate characteristic (attribute) and spatial (location) data." This was the beginning to a very informative GIS Workshop led by Dr. Robert Maggio of Texas A&M, March 28, at the offices of the Texas Natural Resources Information System (TNRIS).

There is a trend in Texas to share applications, such as map production and data analysis, among levels of government. It is to a county's advantage to investigate the use of a GIS with appraisal districts and others due to the increasing affordability and effectiveness of GIS. This workshop included topics such as GIS concepts, applications, database design, and implementation. If you would like copies of written materials used in this workshop, please contact the ACSEC.

## New Faces

Recently the ACSEC Addressing Program added a new staff member. Jana Graves joins our staff of two in the addressing program where she will now provide program support. Jana has been with the ACSEC for the past year and brings eight years of state government experience to the ACSEC. We would like to welcome Jana and look forward to her contributions to the statewide program.

As always, if you would like information or materials mentioned in this newsletter, please contact Steve Barbre at the ACSEC at 512/327-1911.

## Meetings of Note

May 13-14, Austin, GIS Data Exchange Forum. . .Texas Dept. of Information Resources, Capitol Station P.O. Box 13564 Austin, Tx 78711.

June 9-13, Dallas, National Emergency Number Association annual conference with 4 scheduled addressing sessions. . .ACSEC, 512/327-1911.



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