



“Orion is a fantastic program that I think was the key to us gathering as much info as we did in such a short period of time.”

- Dan Burns
Supervising Building Official

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Orion Reduced Reporting Time to FEMA by 70%: Cascade Wildfire – Northern California

BACKGROUND

In Northern California, the Cascade wildfire damage affected almost 200 residences. During the aftermath, Dan Burns, the Supervising Building Official, led four teams to assess the damage. Before Yuba County adopted the Orion Damage Assessment Solution, this process would have been time consuming, with the many details to be handwritten and results handed to him in stacks of papers with attached photos to be processed and finally turned in to FEMA.

APPROACH

Through using the Orion Mobile App, the four teams that Dan Burns led were able to quickly and easily document the damage to the destroyed homes, along with geocoded pictures and instantly report the results from the sites to the Emergency Manager through the Orion Dashboard. FEMA asked for the IA and individual property reports and received them as soon as the assessments were done – generated automatically from the Orion Dashboard.

RESULT

The Orion Damage Assessment Solution provided quick and accurate mobile collection of property damage from the field as well as geo-coded photos, that were instantly shared with the Orion Dashboard. County officials were also able to gain situational awareness through Orion's GIS mapping that gave them a real-time understanding of the disaster. Through Orion's rapid FEMA reporting feature, Yuba County was able share damage information with FEMA to meet the county's damage threshold. FEMA gave the county a disaster declaration very quickly as a result, allowing the community to begin the recovery process.