

GTAS April 2011 Report

During the month of April GTAS efforts work focused on site installations, communications tests, training, and improvements to the GTAS software based on user feedback and industry needs.

We worked with NWS Southern Region Headquarters (SRH) to resolve firewall issues. SRH changed how they were going to allow access from GTAS clients at the WFOs to the GTAS servers at SRH and GSD. They are opening a block of address space for this purpose. In testing at the Dallas/Fort Worth WFO we found that if the GTAS clients connect to GTAS servers at SRH their IPs are never translated but when going to the backup servers at GSD they are. This required a change to all configuration files for SRH sites (Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston, Lake Charles, and Melbourne). The solution above was put in place at the end of the month and will be implemented and tested at the remaining WFOs in May. We have installed and successfully tested communications with the Houston WFO. We are still waiting on system information for the Houston EOC. We worked with the Calcasieu Parish EOC IT department and they have reconfigured firewall rules but we are waiting for EOC staff to return in order to test if communications works. We Worked with Louisiana State EOC to install and successfully tested the GTAS system at their site. We are still waiting on the Orange County EOC for installation time at their site. Communications at the Orange County EOC is via VPN this has been configured and will work out of the box. We have continued to try and acquire system information for the Florida State EOC. Familiarization training has been scheduled for the Johnson County EOC in Kansas.

Familiarization training was scheduled for the Johnson County EOC in Kansas and we are continuing in are efforts to set familiarization training at the Kansas City/Pleasant Hill WFO. We continued to hold recurring training/evaluation efforts at operational GTAS sites.

We fixed the WRF-NMM domain problem in Central Region and implemented the fix in the field. We received feedback from the field that our chemical toxicity levels were off for some of the chemicals in the database. This problem has been resolved and implemented in the field. We implemented CAP 1.2 and CAP 1.2 IPAWS_OPEN 2 profiles. We added a new data server to support SR operations. We upgraded our development test server with the latest release of GTAS software to test for installation in the field after all sites are trained.

Planned activities for March

- Install at the Houston/Galveston EOC.
- Perform communications tests at SR sites.
- Implement IPAWS_OPEN 2.0.
- Start training at sites as communications test succeed.
- Update GTAS software based on user feedback.
- Continue to evaluate the GTAS system at operational sites.