



# **GREENSBORO TORNADO EVENT APRIL 2018**

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GIS Manager**

# OVERVIEW

April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018, an EF2 Tornado struck east Greensboro

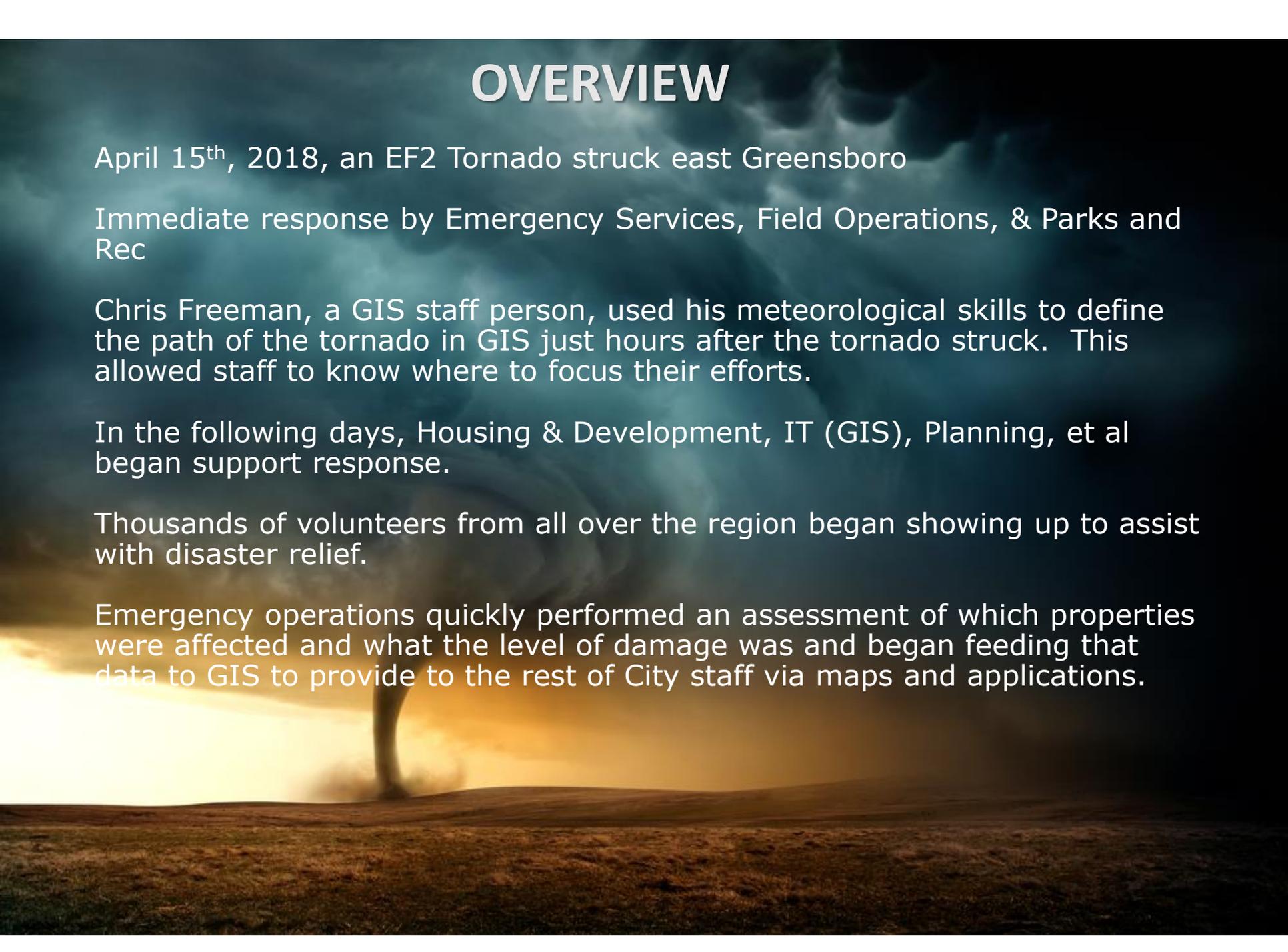
Immediate response by Emergency Services, Field Operations, & Parks and Rec

Chris Freeman, a GIS staff person, used his meteorological skills to define the path of the tornado in GIS just hours after the tornado struck. This allowed staff to know where to focus their efforts.

In the following days, Housing & Development, IT (GIS), Planning, et al began support response.

Thousands of volunteers from all over the region began showing up to assist with disaster relief.

Emergency operations quickly performed an assessment of which properties were affected and what the level of damage was and began feeding that data to GIS to provide to the rest of City staff via maps and applications.



# RESPONSE ISSUES

## **GIS to the rescue? Not exactly**

All communications towers were down. Minimum phone and data service.

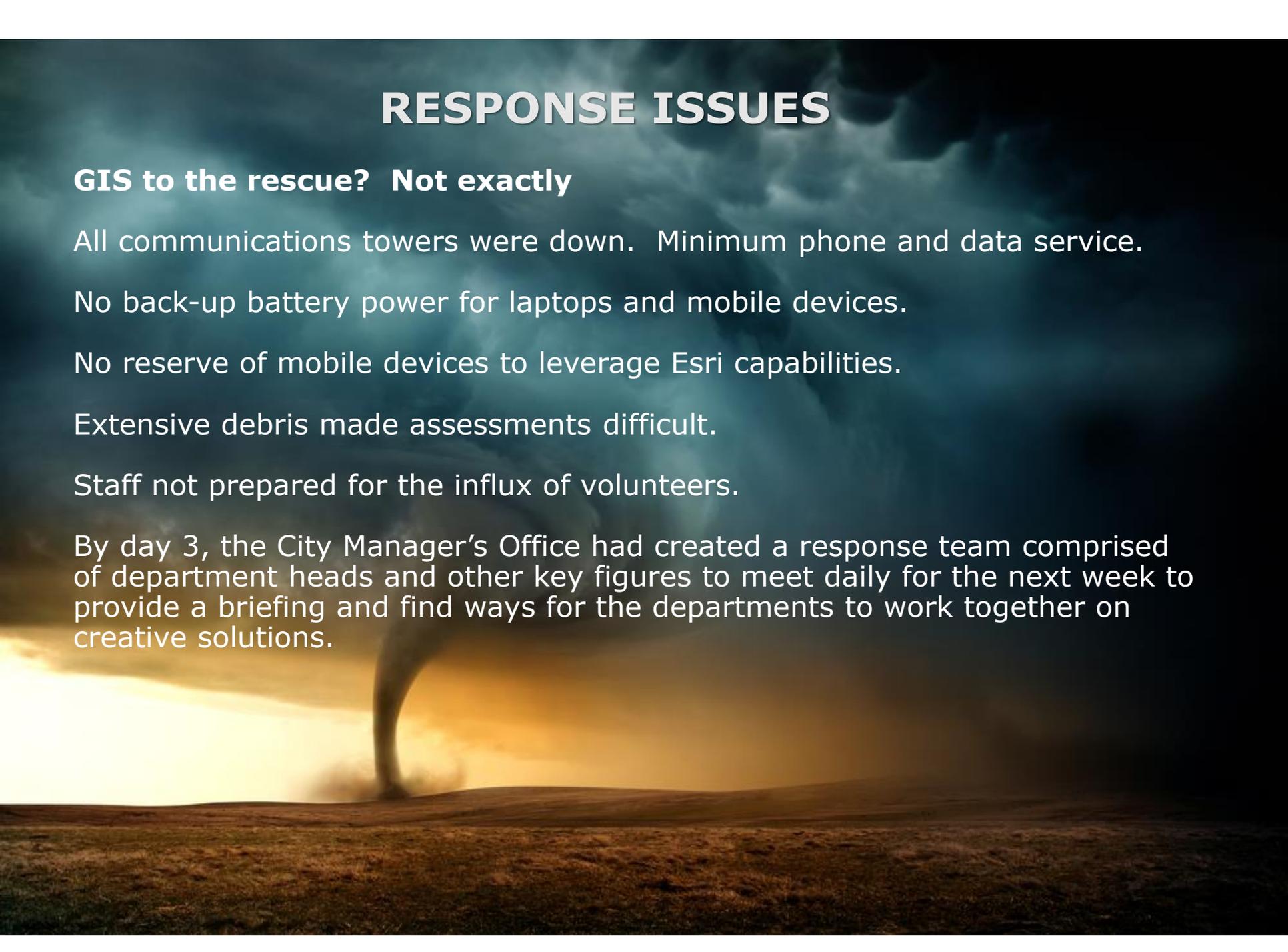
No back-up battery power for laptops and mobile devices.

No reserve of mobile devices to leverage Esri capabilities.

Extensive debris made assessments difficult.

Staff not prepared for the influx of volunteers.

By day 3, the City Manager's Office had created a response team comprised of department heads and other key figures to meet daily for the next week to provide a briefing and find ways for the departments to work together on creative solutions.





# GIS FOLLOW UP

Emergency Operations finalized the list of affected addresses

IT-GIS mapped the addresses and provided this data across the City of other GIS purposes

Provided assistance to Parks & Rec staff in volunteer coordination

Created hard copy maps for volunteers to perform door-to-door surveys related to relief needs and insurance status

Created the Damage Assessment Esri dashboard.

