

CIRIS

Critical Infrastructure Response Information System

What is CIRIS?

The Critical Infrastructure Response Information System (CIRIS) is a secure, innovative web-based GIS and text inquiry information system designed to provide up-to-date information on critical infrastructure in New York State. CIRIS contains tools for searching, data analysis, evaluation and mapping that can easily and quickly support decision makers in various critical planning, assessment and emergency functions.

Why do we need CIRIS?

Threat assessment, crime analysis and emergency response planning have become critical tasks in today's world. Accessible tools that require minimal training are required to efficiently assemble key information for responders and managers in rapidly changing situations. CIRIS fills this requirement and goes beyond it with innovative search tools and the ability to load new data quickly.

What are the benefits of CIRIS?

CIRIS allows users to identify resources quickly and effectively using an intuitive search engine that requires no special training. Users find data through a "Google-like" search based on words and phrases in plain English. Once assembled, this information can be plotted or e-mailed easily using pre-packaged templates. CIRIS also allows for fast data loading by data owners, allowing new data – including event data – to be uploaded from anywhere by any authorized person and made available to system users in minutes.

Who will benefit from CIRIS?

CIRIS will benefit those responsible for making decisions related to law enforcement, terrorism threats and emergencies – both natural and man-made – as a tool that gives them rapid access to critical information. Every New Yorker could potentially benefit from CIRIS through better preliminary preparation and more efficient response by state and local officials that have access to the system, especially during emergency events.

Why is CIRIS innovative?

CIRIS allows users to search critical infrastructure information based on physical location of characteristics without any special syntax or mapping knowledge. For example, CIRIS can find all the shelters within a 50 mile radius of an address or named point and return contact name and numbers without the user needing to look at a map. CIRIS can also map any of the data in the system and bookmark those maps for use by others. CIRIS is truly innovative in that it turns traditional data-warehousing techniques upside-down by using a data catalog to create a standardized view of the disparate data instead of making all of the data conform to a standard database structure – saving time when it matters most.

