

**Wakota CAER General Membership
Meeting & Speaker
Tuesday, January 10th, 2017 - 9:30 a.m.
Wakota CAER – Meeting at CG City Hall
12800 Ravine Parkway
Cottage Grove, MN 55016**

**Topic:
"US National Grid"**

US National Grid (USNG) is the national standard for communicating location during an emergency response. Per the 2015 FEMA Directive 092-5, FEMA now requires its use by all federal responders, and encourages local jurisdictions to do the same. FEMA, the National Search and Rescue Committee, Department of Defense, and several states (including MN) have already implemented USNG as the “language of location” for both disaster and everyday operations. In Minnesota, USNG is currently used in several cities and counties, including Lake, Cook, Hubbard and Dakota counties.

In the Arrowhead region, off-road callers to 911 are often unclear about where they are, leading to confusion and delayed emergency response. Lake and Cook counties have partnered with SharedGeo on a nationwide program for trail location markers that use USNG for off-road trail system maps and signs, as well as a mobile location app.

While developed here for off-road use, the system is ideal for urban settings, as well as catastrophic incident emergency response. The goal is to take the “search” out of “search and rescue.”

Presenter:



Steve Swazee

Steve Swazee is the Executive Director of SharedGeo, a Minnesota non-profit dedicated to the development of geospatial technology for the public good. He is also a Delta Air Lines 747 pilot, and retired Navy Captain who chairs the Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC) of the Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council. During Hurricanes Katrina, Ophelia, Rita and Wilma, he served as the senior Department of Defense (DoD) Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer at the Pentagon. He is a nationally recognized expert on USNG implementation and since 2008 has been a leading advocate for adoption by the ESS.