

National Interagency Fire Center – ArcGIS Online Organization

Information and Overview – May 2016

What is it?

ArcGIS Online (AGOL) is an online, collaborative web GIS that allows users to create and share maps and data. A companion application called Collector for ArcGIS works with AGOL and extends visualization and data collection to the field on mobile devices. A Wildland Fire Information Technology project provided funding for an interagency AGOL account for wildland fire incidents. It is available for **any partner agency** (federal, state, and local) that participates in wildland fire response. It is available for all IMT levels (1-5) including BAER Teams for use on incidents.



Web Link to the NIFC AGOL Account: <http://nifc.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html>

How do I get an account?

Follow the link listed above to access the homepage for the NIFC AGOL account. On the home page is a link to a form to request an account. Account requests may take several days to process.

Who is the target audience?

The AGOL account is not just for GIS specialists. Web maps have been created that field personnel and non-technical users can view and edit to enhance their situational awareness. The ability to take maps in the field on mobile devices – with and without cell service – makes this technology very useful for many different incident response positions. The AGOL account is also designed to assist the incident GIS Specialist with becoming more efficient in information collection and dissemination. Work flows and data services have been developed to get the GIS Specialist up and running quickly.

How can I be successful using AGOL for incident response?

The key to success with AGOL for incident response is preparation and practice. This is a new technology for fire business so training and becoming familiar with the benefits and limitations is critical. There are numerous examples of this technology providing better and more timely intel from the fire line, providing better situational awareness for firefighters, and significantly decreasing paper map production on incidents.

Where can I find training in the use of AGOL and Collector?

The link above to the NIFC AGOL site has information about training for GIS Specialists and incident personnel. That is a great first start. Beyond that ESRI has extensive training available with information on those options available on their website.