

## **Welcome to NICS version 5.2**

August 23, 2012

Please review the following information and clear your browser history prior to logging into NICS 5.2 for the first time

### **A. New Login Page**

New separate log-in buttons for "**Incident**" if you are working a real incident, or the "**Training**" **Sandbox** for all other uses.

1. **NICS User Name**: Your submitted email address is now your NICS Username; passwords remain the same
2. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**: "Announcements" can now be added (requires Admin rights to update); they appear on the login page. They can also be accessed once in NICS from the **TOOLS** menu.
3. **NICS HELP**: The "NICS – Help" site can now be accessed through the link at the bottom of the page as well as within NICS using the HELP button next to LOGOUT
4. **COMMENTS**: "Comments" can now be provided through the link at the bottom of the login page

### **B. Rooms:**

1. **Incident Map Room** – This new room allows for the secure sharing of "ICS process approved" information. This room is "read & copy" only. The ability to "Write" or "Administer" this room is assignable as required.
2. **Working Map Room** – This Room has all the features of what was previously called the "Master Map" Room. This Room provides all Basic Users and above the ability to share information with other Users. Permissions/access can be managed by an Administrator as needed.

Security and access for all pre-labeled or custom created rooms can be fully managed by an Administrator. All incident created rooms are viewable, can be copied, and written-in until changed by an authorized Administrator.

### **C. Maps:**

Two new base maps have been added: U.S. Aviation Charts and Open Street Maps

### **D. Data**

The Virtual Library Search/Publish Features has been added at the bottom of the Data Folder. ([requires a Virtual Library account to use](#))

1. Direct Protection Responsibility, CA-Land Ownership, Aerial Hazards, and Facilities layers have been updated.
2. New folders have been added to organized and facilitate the hosting of data within NICS by CA-OES Operational Areas.
3. Incident specific data folders are now self-generating within the upload folder anytime an incident is created.
4. A wide variety of GIS file types including KML, KMZ and Shape-file can now be imported (limited to GIS, Org. Admin. and Super Users).

The ability to view all data layers still requires the User to turn on the desired data layer under the DATA menu. In order for any of this information to persist within any room, such as incident perimeter lines and other simple polygons, the User must still trace the object in NICS.

### **E. Tracking:**

Automated Vehicle Location (AVL) tracking continues to grow. The following organizations or OES Operational areas have AVL data available: CA –BEU, FKU, RRU, SLU, XFR, XMY, XRI, XSD, XSL. CDF is also providing their Aircraft - Automated Flight Following (AFF) with a two-minute refresh rate.

CA- Position Location Information can be found under the CA-PLI tab.

**F. Weather:**

Numerous new data feeds

**G. Tools:**

**Room Management:**

Modify Room Permissions: allows an administrator for a room to change a user's role in the room

Export Room files as KML or Shape-file has been added

**Email Error Report:** Use this to report a problem in NICS; the message goes directly to the MIT LL team

**View Announcements:** Allows you to see Announcements while logged into NICS

**Administration:** Allows those with administrative rights to make changes to various profiles

Users

Incidents

Forms

Announcements

**H. Drawing Tools:**

1. New mouse markers for text and icons
2. A dash line has been added to the line types

**I. Look and Feel Updates:**

1. The "MyMap" and "Share MyMap" buttons have been modified to clearly show when they are in use by changing colors.
2. *[Feature to be implemented soon]* Your first name and last name is now used in place of your user name throughout the system (except login)
3. The Chat window for each room now defaults to only opening when the Room is first opened and will remember if the user has closed the window every time they return to the room during their NICS session.

**J. New User Registration Page**

1. Organizations have been grouped by First Responder types
2. Organizational Administrators will be emailed when a new user is registered for their organization

**K. User Roles:**

New User Roles – All NICS Users will now be assigned a basic system "role" (as opposed to an operational role). "Role's" can be modified by a Super User or Organizational Administrator (Org. Admin.) to meet the operational requirements of an incident or organization, as approved through the ICS process or your organizational chain of command.

1. Super User – Everything including Organization Management screen
2. Org. Admin. User – Organizational Level Folder Management and Administration Panel (including Announcement updates)
3. GIS User – Uploading Data and Organizational Level Folder Management
4. Basic User – Work within their MyMap space, read and copy from the "Incident Map", Read and Write to and from the "Working Map" room; has access to all Maps, Data, Tracking, Weather and Tools. Can be assigned "Room" roles as outlined above (1)
5. Read Only User – Can only read information within the Rooms they are provided access