



Mi-Tech utilizes CartoPac to help with hurricane restoration efforts

Mi-Tech's challenge

2017 presented some unique weather challenges that tested the flexibility of geospatial technologies, including three major hurricanes that affected the Atlantic which caused wide-scale flooding and power outages to locations ranging from the Virgin Islands to the Gulf Coast. Hurricane Irma caused catastrophic damage to South Florida in early September, slamming into the Florida Keys as a Category 4 storm with sustained winds of 130 mph.

Mi-Tech, a Fond du Lac, Wisconsin based energy and engineering consulting company, was monitoring the storm and knew their services could help with the power restoration efforts in the Florida Keys. As the storm approached, Mi-Tech reached out to Keys Energy, the public power utility for the Lower Florida Keys, with a proposed plan to assess the post-storm damage. Mi-Tech quickly pulled together a team of ten and headed toward the Florida Keys two days before the storm hit so they would be ready for damage assessment as soon as it was safe to do so.

"We lost communication with Keys Energy as the storm approached. The crew didn't know what to expect when they arrived" said Tim Wagner, Vice President at Mi-Tech. "When they arrived, food and water were generally unavailable but luckily the crew was prepared with freeze dried meals and plenty of water".

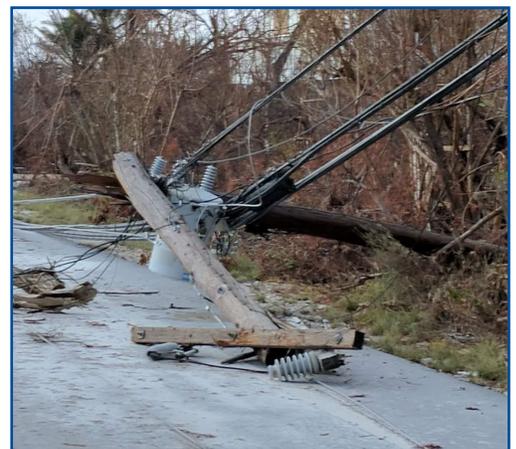
As soon as the Mi-Tech crew was able to safely assess the damage, they started by performing pole inspections. With little time to prepare, they performed this inspection using digital maps on their iPads and manually marked the condition of each utility pole. Although this process achieved their goal of an accurate damage assessment, Wagner knew that there had to be a more efficient way to collect the data and transfer the information to Keys Energy.



The Mi-Tech crew helps restore power after Hurricane Irma

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Crews at Mi-Tech captured the devastation

Leveraging the CartoPac solution

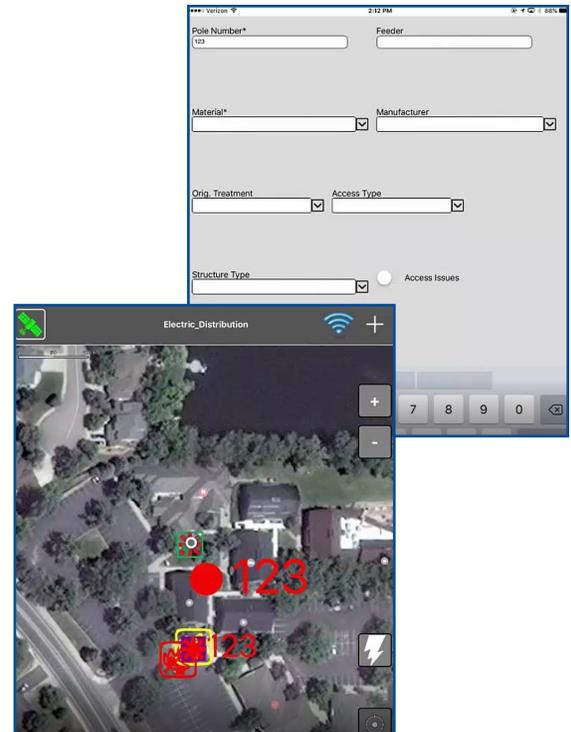
With light pole inspection next on the damage assessment list, Mi-Tech had a few days to regroup and reevaluate their process. Wagner knew that they could leverage mobile technologies to improve the data collection process. Mi-Tech has successfully used the CartoPac Solution for wood pole inspections for a large number of customers across the country. That's when they made the decision to leverage the CartoPac Solution for iOS using the iPads that each team member brought along. CartoPac's flexibility allowed Mi-Tech to quickly and easily configure a workflow for light pole inspections. Their goal for the light pole inspection was to identify: a) did the street light still exist? b) if so, was there damage, and c) could it be repaired or did it need to be replaced?

The light pole inspection presented unique challenges as it had to be performed in the dark to easily tell if a street light was in working condition. It was a top priority of Keys Energy to get the street lights in working order again as operating without them at night posed a safety concern. Armed with their iPads and a light pole inspection workflow from CartoPac, Mi-Tech employees were able to efficiently and accurately complete the inspection in one week, a process that Wagner estimates would have taken twice as long using just the digital maps as they had done before. Additionally, because the CartoPac solution utilizes GPS functionality, the collected data boasted a high level of accuracy and eliminated the potential for human error. "This was actually the first time that Mi-Tech had used the CartoPac Solution on the iOS platform" said Wagner. "Not only did it exhibit seamless performance but the crew found it to be very user friendly".

After the inspection was complete, Mi-Tech was able to provide Keys Energy with all of the data that they collected digitally, allowing them to quickly begin their restoration efforts.

CartoPac's robust functionality and ease of configuration allowed Mi-Tech to get the job done quickly, efficiently and accurately.

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The CartoPac Solution on the iOS Platform

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