



## Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services

**“The ability to upload information concerning command posts, field kitchens, fixed feeding sites and points of distribution was an important benefit provided by the use of Depiction. Once standardized tables were developed in Excel for the purpose of tracking such resources, they were easily updated as frequently as necessary and uploaded into Depiction.”**



When Salvation Army Captain Dana Libby was deployed to the Gulf Coast in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike in the Fall of 2008, he took with him a pre-release copy of Depiction mapping software. When he arrived, he was made responsible for Salvation Army feeding and hydration efforts on the island of Galveston, where 40% of the residents were either unable or refused to evacuate.

Coordinating with the Red Cross, FEMA and other organizations, Libby used Depiction to develop and maintain the situational awareness of the command staff and subsidiary commands. As conditions changed, Libby would update his local depiction files, then send screenshots to the field commands and other interested parties.

Aerial imagery came from photoreconnaissance flights by a Predator UAV following the hurricane. Using Depiction's geoalignment feature, Libby quickly integrated these images into Libby's depictions, improving knowledge of the situation on the ground.

Depiction integrated these images and preexisting high-resolution satellite imagery, with data on shelters and distribution points, imported from simple spreadsheets built in Microsoft Excel. Together, this allowed Libby to see and share the critical information needed to coordinate lifesaving relief.

## Overview

### Profile

Dana Libby is a volunteer captain with the Salvation Army of Everett and Snohomish County. Captain Libby was deployed to the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Ike by Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services.

### Situation

Hurricane Ike was the most costly natural disaster in Texas history. Winds of 110 mph caused the deaths of at least 72 people in the United States, and did \$29 billion in damage, including the destruction or damage of three-quarters of all homes in the city of Galveston. Though under an evacuation order, about 40 percent of the city's 57,523 residents stayed on the island, and were stranded for nearly two weeks without power, water or sewer services.

### Benefits

To bring together all the critical information he needed to see and share, Captain Libby used multiple Depiction features, including CSV import, image geoalignment and custom element creation. All this data was saved to Libby's local hard drive—critical, due to his limited Internet access during the relief efforts.