

Featured Article

Emergency Response Maps

Florida Fire Departments Freeport and North Naples, Florida

Fire departments are always fighting the clock when it comes to an emergency. With the use of RunBook, two fire departments explain how their response time has been drastically reduced.



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INCREASED EFFICIENCY USING RUNBOOK

It is 2:00 a.m. when the call comes in, Freeport (FL) Fire Engine 12 pulls out onto the pad. They receive the address from dispatch and the officer quickly begins to search for it in an outdated paper book. As time ticks by, frustration mounting, they finally locate the address and can begin their response to the emergency. This is a very realistic example of what might have taken place years ago in Freeport and is still occurring now in many departments across the country. Fast forward to the present – the call comes in and the address is automatically populated into the address locate field in Emergency Response Maps' (ERMAPS) **RunBook** mobile mapping software. By the time the Engine 12 firefighters are ready for the rig to move, the incident has been located and the turn-by-turn directions are displayed. Aerial imagery is automatically displaying the exact house and surroundings to the crew. They are tracking their progress as they move down the road since the Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) system is displaying their actual location in relation to the incident. In the end, the response time was greatly reduced and help was on the scene much quicker and safer.

RunBook Reduces Response Times

Having the capability to tie into CAD systems allows the incident location to populate fields automatically. The incident is located and turn-by-turn directions are displayed without any work from the responding crew. Even when the CAD system is not tied into dispatch, a simple entry of an address—or even a partial address— allows the incident to be located in a fraction of the time compared to utilizing paper books. Chief Greenslait of the Freeport Fire Department has been using RunBook for the past two years. He has reported a significant reduction in response times by implementing RunBook on his front line apparatus and command vehicles. “We used to have to pull out onto the pad and take time locating the address in a map book before we could respond” Chief Greenslait said. “Now we can see the houses in the imagery and can locate the exact house accurately and quickly.”

RunBook Improves Incident Operations

Quick response is not all that RunBook was designed for. Once on the scene, responders can take advantage of its many features to help mitigate an incident. Recently, ERMAPS integrated the AIMSonScene module with RunBook, which simulates a computerized tactical worksheet that makes it easier to keep track and assign units on the fire ground. Also, the imagery and print functions allow maps to be printed and used during response. Chief Greenslait uses a wireless printer to print maps of the area during large wild land incidents and distributes the maps to sector commanders and crew leaders. Doing this allows everyone to be familiar with the terrain and assists in deploying resources more efficiently.

RunBook Integrates Preplans and Hazmat Data

RunBook can display preplans in many ways. One way is to display them as a layer directly in the map. North Naples Fire Rescue chose to have their preplans displayed as a layer, and the actual drawing is brought up in a PDF form, via hyperlink. It's all part of the customization Emergency Response Maps allows within the functionality of RunBook. Once the building is located and then “clicked on”, the preplan is automatically displayed. If any hazardous materials are present in the building, they are preloaded into WISER, which automatically starts up, providing HAZMAT response and mitigation information.

Emergency Response Maps is now integrating COMMANDSCOPE Preplan software as a module in RunBook. Departments can choose to utilize COMMANDSCOPE as their preplan interface and have it start up to display the preplan information by clicking on the corresponding building in the map. COMMANDSCOPE offers a high degree of functionality and customization to a department's preplans. Imagine having your preplan and hazardous materials information automatically display just by click of a mouse click on the map. With Emergency Response Maps' RunBook you don't have to imagine because it's the standard.