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Success Story: Orange County Fire Chiefs Association



About Tele Atlas

Tele Atlas digital maps and dynamic content help users anywhere in the world find the people, places, and products most important in their daily lives.

Our map data is updated using information from a network of over 50,000 global resources, including satellite and aerial imagery, public and government sources, input from utility, fleet, and postal drivers, and our proprietary mobile mapping vans. More than 70 categories of points of interest, dynamic traffic and event information, and speed camera and fuel price information add even richer content to our digital maps.

We collaborate with our partners in personal navigation, Internet, wireless, automotive, enterprise, and public service markets to help them deliver valuable products and services to their customers in a timely and cost-effective manner.

For more information, please visit www.teleatlas.com or call us at 1-800-331-7881 (North America) or +32 9 244 88 11 (Europe).

Tele Atlas Facilitates Interagency Collaboration and Faster Rescue Efforts

The events of September 11, Hurricane Katrina, Midwest tornadoes, and West Coast fires have given Americans a newfound appreciation for the country's firefighters, police, and first responders. Such large-scale emergencies have underscored the need to improve communication throughout the first responder community, motivating public safety officials to increase interagency cooperation and collaboration. Today, agencies nationwide are utilizing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to leverage accurate maps of emergency areas and to identify the exact location of emergency assets, incidents, and hazards. The Orange County Fire Chiefs Association (OCFCA) is among those agencies participating in the effort to modernize response systems.

Prior to deploying a Public Safety GIS Interoperability Project, Orange County fire crews relied on inconsistent mapping systems maintained by individual fire agencies to navigate their vehicles. Due to map inconsistencies and the lack of real-time vehicle tracking between neighboring agencies, crews lost valuable time when responding to people in need. In 2005, the OCFCA developed a strategic technology "roadmap" to remedy these issues, and the Public Safety GIS Interoperability Project established a GIS framework that began with a GIS basemap.

With the help of Tele Atlas' government data program, PSOMAS Engineering, and Urban Area Security Initiative Grants, Orange County began building and maintaining a basemap with street-level details and technology. The solution would enable agencies to share information countywide and allow dispatchers to find and deploy the closest fire crew to an emergency, regardless of the crew's home territory.

Orange County Unites with Common GIS Data

Tele Atlas data has given the OCFCA a routable street network to provide a consistent basemap for mapping, routing, geocoding, and an Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) capability for the entire county. By ensuring all dispatch centers can work off the same location information, the Tele Atlas basemap delivers the optimal foundation for the county's GIS Mapping Project.



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AVL has quickly proven to be an indispensable initiative. Drawing information from the basemap and GPS units in each vehicle, AVL enables dispatch centers to instantly locate and deploy the nearest fire engine to an emergency, and also allows dispatchers to see how fast vehicles are traveling and which crews are already on scene or available to support. Because the system is shared countywide, local dispatchers can send crews from other agencies if they are closer to the scene, and even track engines sent beyond the county line, along with those that are called from outside Orange County to tackle large-scale incidents.

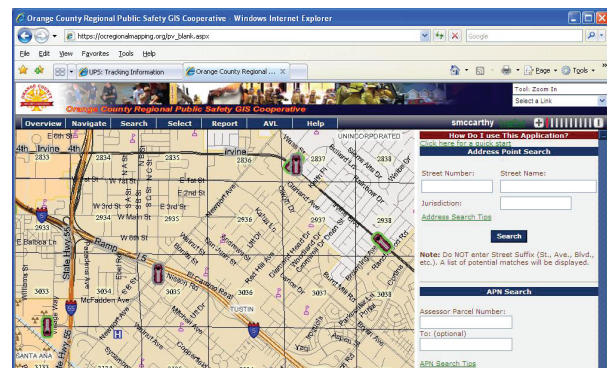
Interagency coordination and faster emergency response have also been made possible by new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) technology and CAD-to-CAD Interoperability. The CAD initiatives enable dispatch centers to request "automatic aid" resources and exchange incident information. Additionally, the Countywide Wireless Data Network merges the mobile data computer networks owned by MetroNet and the Orange County Fire Authority into a single countywide system. The network has added new radio sites to improve coverage and reliability, and enables transmission of data from other systems. These initiatives are critical for allowing agencies to reference the same map data as they coordinate emergency response efforts.

At the foundation of Orange County's improved technology and interoperability is accurate and fresh map data. Tele Atlas' street network provides a basemap with greater positional accuracy. When combined with digital aerial photography and solutions from PSOMAS Engineering, the basemap displays site details such as surrounding brush, roof type, and width of passages. This detailed information enables firefighters to prepare for the onsite situation. In addition, the digital map viewing application allows firefighters to pick from many layers of information, including: topographic maps; enhanced countywide street centerlines with vehicle routing attributes

and address ranges; intersections; address points; digital orthophotos; jurisdictional boundaries; fire district grid; and parcel and building information (where provided).

An Entire County Benefits from One Map

Orange County has experienced first-hand the power of common GIS data in elevating public safety planning and interagency collaboration. With a detailed picture of the entire county, fire crews not only respond to emergencies faster, but can also proactively plan for potential disasters. Knowing where help is needed, which crew is closest to an emergency, and how to coordinate multiagency efforts has improved the safety of residents and firefighters alike. It's a success with life-saving impact.



GIS enables dispatchers to track the location of emergency vehicles.

The Tele Atlas basemap powers critical public safety applications:

- Fire Run Mapping
- Automatic Vehicle Routing & Tracking
- Dispatch Geofile Management
- Response Planning
- Incident/Crime Analysis
- Hazardous Materials Inventory
- Incident Preplanning
- Joint Response & Recovery Coordination
- Emergency Operations Center
- Mobile Command
- Permitting & Inspection