



ENSURE SAFETY MAP LAYERING EARLY NOTIFICATION HUMIDITY REDUCE RISK LOCATION BASED MAXIMIZE RESOURCES FUTURE RADAR TOOL
FLUME MODELING PREPARE ONLINE CONSULTING WARNINGS ICE MOBILE INFORMATION HOURLY FORECASTS RAIN ADVISORIES
CUSTOM ALERTS TORNADO AREAS OF MAXIMUM STORM TRACKING IMPROVE RESPONSE WIND SPEED

MXVISION WEATHERSENTRY ONLINE®

CASE STUDY

YANKTON COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

YANKTON, SOUTH DAKOTA

Yankton County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) serves 23,000 people in a 500-square mile area with two paid employees and 25 volunteer weather spotters. Yankton is located 80 miles southwest of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. They provide emergency assistance with search and rescue, storm spotting, flooding rescue, and hazardous materials incidents.

THE CHALLENGE

Yankton County EMA needs real-time weather information to direct their volunteer spotters when they are facing severe weather, including hail and tornadoes. They want to allow their storm spotters to get close enough to see storm activity without placing them in danger.

THE DTN/METEORLOGIX SOLUTION

Yankton County EMA depends on MxVision WeatherSentry Online® Public Safety Edition for real-time weather information. According to Jeremy Dangel, emergency management director, they have had MxVision WeatherSentry® *Public Safety Edition* as long as he has been there. In September 2005, they switched from the satellite version to the online version after they moved to a new location and looked into putting the satellite back up. "I spoke with one of the reps at DTN/Meteorlogix and learned that we could get everything we needed

on the Internet without having to deal with the hassle of having a satellite on the roof," said Dangel. Yankton County EMA staff also likes that the Internet version allows them to obtain multiple licenses and access the information from various locations. They have a contingency plan for their entire office. "If for some reason this site were to be down or damaged, we can actually relocate to the other side of the country and run the whole dispatch center from there," he explained.

RESULTS

Dangel has found that he really likes the flexibility that MxVision WeatherSentry Online *Public Safety Edition* offers. "If I'm just iffy about whether the spotters are going to go out, I'll check MxVision WeatherSentry on my computer at home," he said. "I live four blocks from here, but it's nice that if I get up in the middle of the night, I don't have to come down here. I can just go to my home office and away we go," he explained.

They currently have four people who log in to the system on a regular basis: Dangel, the deputy director and two volunteer spotters. They use the real-time radar information from MxVision WeatherSentry Online *Public Safety Edition* for their spotters in the field. "It's nice to be able to put our spotters out of harm's way and yet keep them close enough to the storm to have them be effective as spotters," said Dangel.



Each of the spotters carries a high-band radio in their vehicle, and Dangel directs them to specific locations from the emergency management office. "We can say, 'it looks like it's coming your way, why don't you head four miles west,'" he explained. "We've got a big map here, and we can say, 'this looks like a good spot for you,' based on what we're seeing on radar."

They use the National Weather Service for redundancy, but they find that MxVision WeatherSentry Online *Public Safety Edition* provides far better radar. "We're looking at less than five minutes of lag time on MxVision WeatherSentry Online versus up to 20 minutes of lag time for the National Weather Service," said Dangel. "That can make a big difference when we've got spotters out as things start to develop."

THE CLIENT'S VIEW

"I like the versatility of being able to log in to MxVision WeatherSentry Online *Public Safety Edition* from wherever I am and not have a piece of hardware or equipment that requires me to be sitting in front of one particular terminal."

Jeremy Dangel, emergency management director, Yankton Emergency Management Agency

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