

Improving Emergency Response Times at 22 South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Sites



GPS Coverage Inside FRS

Chronos Technology, working in partnership with 3tc, has installed GPS repeater systems ensuring full GPS coverage inside 22 South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue sites.

3tc supplies South Yorkshire FRS with its MODAS Professional software, a high performance mobile data system optimised to deliver operational efficiency through the use of robust real time communications. MODAS provides access to safety critical information, for example risk information such as if the site has known hazardous materials; as well as planning the most effective route to the scene of an emergency.

MODAS, which ensures effective communication between the Control Room and appliances both when mobile and at their home station, requires GPS to operate and as a GPS signal is not always readily available inside buildings, fire crews were wasting valuable time, sometimes minutes, gaining a lock on GPS after they had left the fire station. Additionally, the Control Room lost visibility of the appliances when they were inside the station.

Identifying an opportunity to improve response times to incidents and provide visibility of appliances at all times, 3tc approached Chronos to supply a solution to bring GPS inside the stations. Chronos, who has been supplying and installing GPS repeaters for both military and civilian applications for the last 22 years, set up a proof of concept installation at one of the F&R stations to demonstrate how a repeater brings the GPS signal indoors. Following the successful demonstration, Chronos installed GPS repeater solutions in line with Ofcom legal requirements, in 21 appliance bays during a three week period.

Duncan Smith, Business Development Manager at Chronos said, "GPS receivers fitted on fire appliances that have not been required to move outside for several days



may not work immediately or may give misleading results when vehicles leave the buildings. The problem is easily solved with a [GPS repeater solution](#) which enables all receivers to function correctly, no matter how long they have been kept inside and out of view of the satellites." He added, "Every second is critical so permanent connection back to central systems improves response times and information flows."

Steven Locking, IT Manager at South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue said, "We knew immediately which stations Chronos were installing because as the appliances received the GPS signal, they popped up on the Control Room Terminals. He added, "Control Room personnel are now getting reliable updates when appliances are at any station throughout the county. Chronos and 3tc worked quickly and efficiently without affecting our ability to mobilise during the rollout."

CASE STUDY

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www.gps-world.biz sales@gps-world.biz +44 1594 862200

