



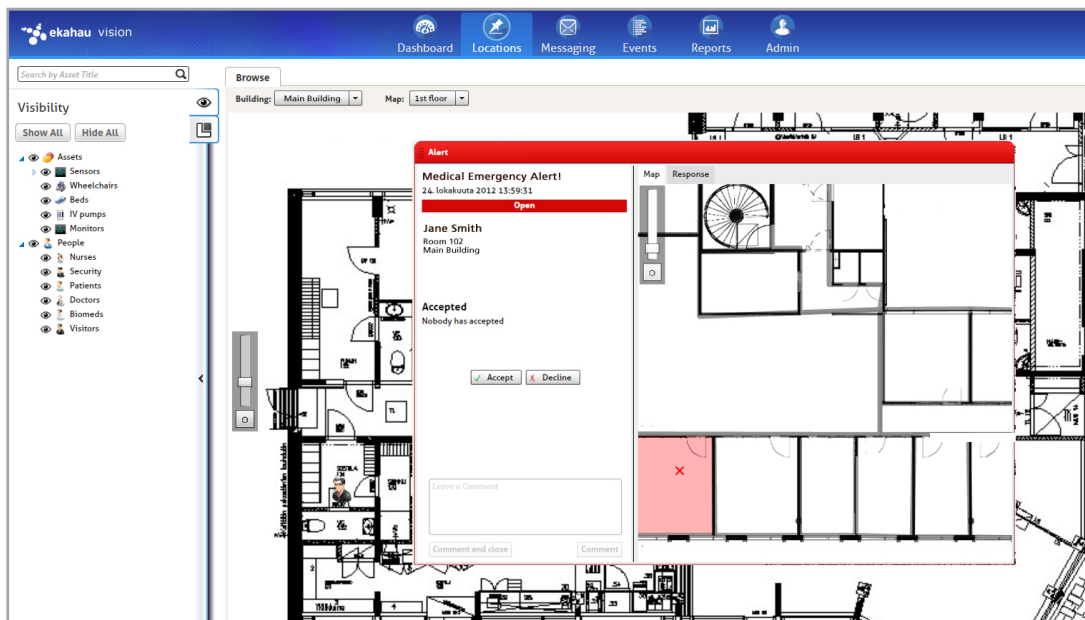
Summit County Children Services Implements a Location-aware, Wireless Panic Button to Increase Staff Safety

Challenge

Committed to their mission of ensuring the safety, permanency and well-being of all children since 1885, Summit County Children Services in Akron, Ohio, wanted to improve staff safety at their visitation facility. By using Ekahau's Real-Time Location System (RTLS) safety alert solution, Summit County Services can reduce response times to staff duress incidents involving parents and visitors. If a staff member in any of the facility's thirty-five private visitation rooms felt threatened, Summit County Children Services wanted to provide a wireless panic-button so that staff could instantly request help, also making their location known. Without a location-aware alerting solution, minutes could be lost locating emergencies and facility managers did not want to impact child safety.



Summit County Children Services employees use the Ekahau active RFID badges worn on lanyards to send help requests by pulling down on their badges, from anywhere in the building.



Local police dispatchers can view the emergency caller's location on web-based maps of the facility.

Solution

Summit County Children Services chose the Ekahau Real-Time Location System (RTLS) to provide a location-aware safety alert solution that enabled geo-messaging at their visitation facility. Using active radiofrequency identification (RFID) badges worn on lanyards, Summit County Children employees can send a help request by simply pulling-down on their Ekahau Wi-Fi badges, from anywhere in the building. Seconds later nearby badge-holders receive a badge alert indicating the caller's location and nature of the emergency on their badges' LED. Local police dispatchers are also alerted and can view the emergency caller's location on web-based maps of the facility. Wearable Ekahau Wi-Fi badges feature an LED screen which displays text messages and badge buttons enable 2-way messaging.

Security personnel are also able to view staff locations on virtual maps of the facility, at any time, using a web browser and Ekahau Vision™ software. Ekahau Vision displays maps of the visitation facility with icons representing each staff member wearing an Ekahau badge. The system also comes with a

Forensics Replay™ feature, allowing police and managers to view a playback of badge-holder movements during an emergency response.

Unlike cellular systems which vary by local district and cannot adequately locate mobile phone users, indoors and CCTV video surveillance systems which require staffing, the Ekahau safety solution cost-effectively delivers staff visibility and geo-messaging indoors, using the facility's existing Wi-Fi network.

Results with Ekahau

Summit County Children Services chose the Ekahau RTLS solution to provide a safety alerting over their Wi-Fi network, in order to improve emergency response times and ensure security at their visitation facility. The Ekahau RTLS installation took less than 72 hours to complete and offered the flexibility of customizable, software-programmable messaging and escalation options. Today, Summit County Children Services staff members have an instant safety net and the knowledge that help will arrive quickly.



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