



Grandview Middle School's Ekahau Wireless Panic Buttons and Text Alerts Keep Students Safe

In May, Washington's Governor signed S.B. 5197 into law, requiring school districts to work with local law enforcement to develop an emergency response system aimed at expediting school safety responses with at least one silent panic button located in the administrative office of the school. This bill also requires all school districts to present a mandatory progress report on their panic button/s and security upgrades by December 2014. Many schools districts in the state are trying to find the best security upgrades to meet this new state requirement before the progress report is due. Thankfully, this legislation is not an unfunded mandate. Washington school districts can apply for grant funding from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction to help schools upgrade their security systems and ensure a timely emergency response.

Solution

The Grandview School District researched many types of panic button notification systems and picked Ekahau for better school safety. Grandview Middle School adopted Ekahau's mobile panic button system which uses the school's existing Wi-Fi network and small radiofrequency identification (RFID) badges to instantly alert local law enforcement of an emergency and show the emergency's location on a virtual, web-based school map. This wireless security system gives police a bird's eye view into the location of teachers for a faster, more coordinated emergency response using Ekahau's Real-Time Location System (RTLS) software.



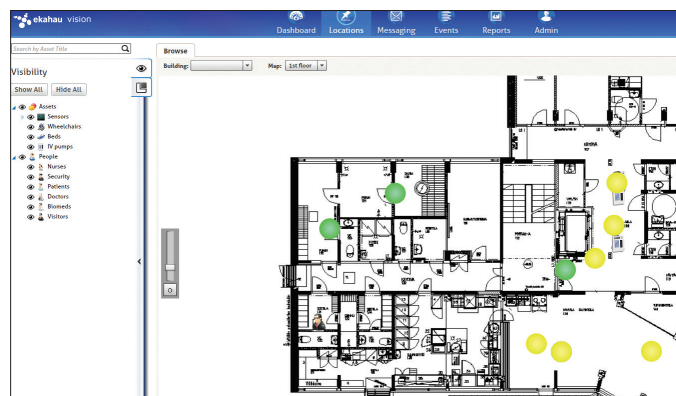
Ekahau's Wi-Fi RFID badges feature a messaging screen to display the nature and location of emergency alarms.

The Ekahau RTLS school safety solution uses small, active RFID badges with colorful buttons and a patent-pending panic switch that teachers and administrators wear on a lanyard throughout their day. If a teacher encounters an emergency, they can pull the panic switch to instantly alert local police and send a notification to every teacher on campus or only those closest to the emergency. In addition to the panic switch, Ekahau badges feature two software-programmable buttons that also alert pre-determined officials and personnel of medical and disciplinary emergencies, without forcing a teacher to leave the classroom. Ekahau badges feature a messaging screen that enables law enforcement officials and school administrators to send customized mass notification to some or all teachers via text message to give evacuation instructions or other information needed during an emergency.

Leading school safety systems allow for analysis after an emergency so school emergency protocols and plans can be updated. Ekahau RTLS school safety allows security personnel and administration to view an emergency unfold on computer maps showing every Ekahau badge holders initial position and movements before, during and after any emergency. A report of emergency movements and evaluation is helpful in clearly identifying challenges that arose during an emergency and troubleshooting better procedures for the future. Ekahau Vision™ software time-stamped emergency replay enables security professionals the tool to continue to create a safer campus.

Results with Ekahau

Grandview Middle School chose the Ekahau RTLS (RFID-over-Wi-Fi) alert system for its easy-to-use panic button functionality, with badges that feature an LED for text message display (e.g., “GM, Room 201, Code Blue”). The Ekahau panic button is unique because it can be used for more frequent emergencies (e.g., disciplinary and medical) and since teachers can use Ekahau badges on a more regular basis, they will be very familiar with using the emergency badge. Many systems that are only used for a worst case scenario can be forgotten or without regular drills, teachers and administration may not remember how to use the system or important enhanced functionalities. With Ekahau, teacher, police and first responder communications are streamlined and no dialing or map look-ups are required for a shorten response time and better outcomes.



location aspect of the panic button allows security to quickly assess an emergency situation based on the teacher’s movements viewed on software maps.

In addition, the Ekahau Vision™ software time stamps and records emergency events so that reports may be reviewed by the Principal, School Board and Police. “The Ekahau solution helps us locate teachers quickly and effectively respond to health emergencies,” said Kevin Chase Superintendent of the Grandview School District. He adds, “Unlike video surveillance solutions or armed guards, the Ekahau solution is very affordable and any school can adopt it to make their school safer.”

Emergency notification systems are the key to fast and responsive security presences in schools. Ekahau’s school safety solution offered cost-effective, flexible alerting functionality used in a variety of emergency scenarios, enabling first responders to improve outcomes and ensure student safety.

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