



Patrick Henry High School in Virginia Implements Ekahau RTLS (RFID-over-Wi-Fi™) Mobile Panic Buttons for School Safety

Challenge

Schools across the country are implementing safety system upgrades to keep their students more secure, including enclosing outdoor walkways, adding access control to buildings, improving locks and adding stationary panic buttons in secret locations on campus. Although no proven combination of security measures can 100% prevent tragedies, improving emergency response time does impact outcomes.

Many schools are integrating on-site security and communications into 911 police systems including Patrick Henry High School in Glade Spring, VA. Patrick Henry High wanted a school safety notification system that brought officers to the scene quickly but did not want to be limited to stationary panic buttons since teachers were often moving. The school considered using mobile phones for school safety notification but was concerned about their reliability for emergency communications and decided that mobile phone networks were better suited for sending mass notifications to parents and not communication within a school between teachers and administrators as well as with local police. Ultimately, the

school wanted a mobile panic button that every teacher could use to alert the police of an emergency, from anywhere in the building or their classroom, and school officials wanted a means of texting all teachers with emergency updates, without relying on the PA system.

Solution

Patrick Henry High School installed Ekahau's Real-Time Location System (RFID-over-Wi-Fi) for school safety alerting because Ekahau's solution was different from the other available safety systems. Ekahau's system enables teachers to alert on-site officials and off-site police from anywhere on campus with a mobile panic button. This on-the-go functionality in Ekahau school panic button, worn by teachers, is missing from stationary panic buttons plus teachers have the ability to receive instructions via text messages related to emergency evacuation from the LED screen located on the Ekahau panic button badge and can alert for a variety of different kinds of emergencies such as medical, disciplinary or school lockdown.

Patrick Henry High School teachers simply wear an Ekahau RFID badge on a lanyard and in the event of an emergency, a teacher pulls down on the badge's patent-pending safety switch to alert those around them and police dispatch of the emergency, instantly making their location known (e.g. "Room3, PHHS, Med Code Red"). School lockdowns can occur quickly and automatically because once a Ekahau badge is pulled, it sends an automated mass notification to all staff, informing them of the lock-down via text message displayed on the Ekahau badge's LED. Emails then go out to county school officials notifying them of the school lock-down. Unlike hard-wired panic buttons, Ekahau's RFID-over-Wi-Fi badge provides a wireless panic button on-the-go with location-tracking built-in, helping police minimize response times by avoiding lengthy map look-ups and voice dialing.

The Ekahau Vision™ school safety software displays real-time, web-based school floor plans that are viewable by police dispatchers, and Ekahau software records and timestamps

“

By locating the site of the danger quickly, we will be able to immediately respond to medical and other emergencies should they occur. Ekahau's technology allows us to identify a possible emergency location with the push of a button.”

- Dr. Keith Perrigan, Patrick Henry High School Principal

every emergency on campus to allow police to analyze emergency response times, resolution notes and continually improve the school's emergency protocols.

All Ekahau badge buttons are software-programmable and customizable. For example, medical alerts may be activated with the press of the

blue or red button on the Ekahau badge. Pushing the button would notify the school nurse and/or the School Resource Officer, and principal that there is a medical emergency in a particular classroom. Alert escalation and cancellation options may also be programmed in the Ekahau software.

In addition to Ekahau's school safety solution, Patrick Henry High School also uses Ekahau's wireless temperature monitoring sensors to monitor a large walk-in refrigerator and walk-in freezer in the cafeteria. In the past, a maintenance employee would have to come in to check the units manually during holidays, summer break and occasionally on weekends. The Ekahau solution remotely monitors temperature, saves time and ensures that units are operational throughout the year.

Results with Ekahau

Unlike most wired panic button systems that offer a single stationary button affixed to a wall in the school, Ekahau's panic button badges are small and portable so that all teachers can access help quickly, wherever they go. The Ekahau system uses Patrick Henry High's existing Wi-Fi network to deliver location information to Ekahau software and enable badge-based communications on 39 badges for teachers as well as 60 badges for administration, nurses, janitors and other staff members.

Patrick Henry High School in Glade Spring Virginia tested the Ekahau RTLS school safety system by a pilot program and now Patrick Henry High School Principal, Dr. Keith Perrigan notes, "By locating the site of the danger quickly, we will be able to immediately respond to medical and other emergencies should they occur. Ekahau's technology allows us to identify a possible emergency location with the push of a button. We know that a quick response saves lives in a school crisis situation. Ekahau technology uses our existing Wi-Fi network to dramatically cut down on response times and gives teachers a way to instantly notify first responders of an issue."

With Ekahau's mobile panic buttons, Patrick Henry High School can keep teachers notified of emergencies on campus without using an intercom system or asking them to leave their classrooms. Any teacher that witnesses an emergency situation can notify police and other security personnel of the emergency including its location. Best of all, the entire school and surrounding community has better peace of mind knowing that Patrick Henry High School's emergency alerting system is fast, efficient and effective.



Ekahau's RFID-over-Wi-Fi badge provides a wireless panic button on-the-go with built-in location-tracking.

Ekahau East Coast
(Headquarters)
1851 Alexander Bell Drive
Suite 105
Reston, VA 20191
Tel: 1-866-4EKAHAU
Fax: 1-703-860-2028
sales-america@ekahau.com

Global Tech Support: www.ekahau.com/support

Ekahau Europe
(Sales, R&D, Product Management)
Hilikatu 3
00180 Helsinki, Finland
Tel: +358-20-743 5910
Fax: +358-20-743 5919
sales-europe@ekahau.com

