



Skyview High School Implements Ekahau RTLS (RFID-over-Wi-Fi™) for School Safety

Challenge

Entire communities, schools, and law enforcement officials have been working cooperatively to make schools safer for students and teachers, especially in recent times. To properly address the complex challenge of ensuring school safety, a multi-faceted approach, that leverages technology in combination with effective school policies, is necessary. As of April 2013, Skyview High School in Nampa, Idaho became one of the pioneers in adopting RFID technology as one component of its school safety plan.

After researching a variety of solutions, Petty-Ford Security Solutions of Idaho recommended the Ekahau Real-Time Location System (RTLS) using active Radiofrequency Identification (RFID) technology to Nampa's Police Chief and school administrators. Following a community meeting where School Resource Officer and local Police Officer Bradley Ford advocated for a trial RTLS system at Skyview, a private unnamed donor offered to fund the \$30,000 RTLS project at the high school. By taking advantage of Skyview's existing Wi-Fi network, Ekahau RTLS eliminated the need for costly, hard-wired readers in every classroom and

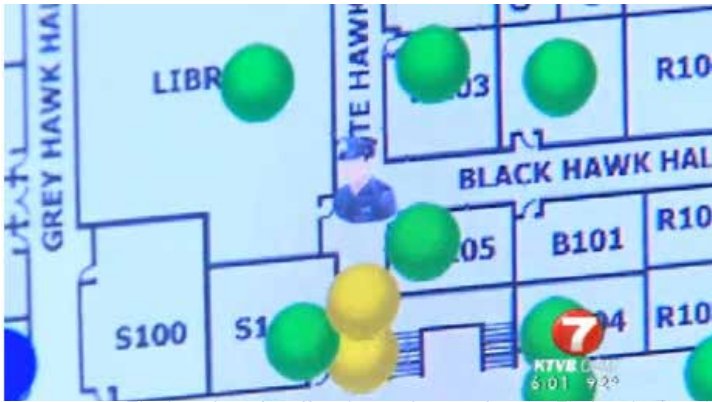


Officer Brad Ford uses the Ekahau Wi-Fi badge for location-aware emergency notification.

shortened solution deployment time; the RTLS pilot at Skyview High School was completed in just eighteen days.

Solution

With the Ekahau school safety solution, if one of the one hundred teachers at Skyview High School pulls down on his or her wearable Ekahau Wi-Fi badge during a security or health emergency, the badge sends a request for assistance within seconds, including



The location of staff and security wearing the Ekahau badges is displayed on a map view in Ekahau Vision™ Software.

event details and the teacher's location, to the school's Resource Officer and local dispatchers. Ekahau's two-way messaging solution eliminates the need for manual dialing and map look-ups by offering instant location visibility and placing the school in lock-down within several seconds. Previously, if the high school needed to be placed in lockdown, the school's secretary was the only person designated to do so, using the intercom system. Today, Skyview staff and area police receive a lockdown message on their Ekahau Wi-Fi badge within seconds, so that school safety protocols can be enacted immediately.

In addition, if a less critical emergency such as a medical or disciplinary incident occurs, a teacher can press one of two colored buttons on the Ekahau badge to request immediate assistance. Ekahau badge configuration is flexible, offering software-programmable buttons, customizable messages, and audible alarms to fit any school's needs and policies.

During emergencies, Skyview dispatchers may also use Ekahau messaging software to send mass communication texts to badge-holders, directing teachers and classes away from danger without dependence on cellular networks. Ekahau Vision™ software also displays the location of all badge-holders on virtual school maps, accessible via a web browser. Lastly, the Ekahau Forensics Replay™ software feature allows school administrators to test emergency plan effectiveness by reviewing second-by-second event replays.

and the intercom system. Nampa Police Chief Craig Kingsbury notes, "If an active shooter was to take that person [the secretary] out, there's no other person to call a lockdown," Chief Kingsbury adds, "But now, any staff [member] can call a lockdown."

"One of the biggest positives of the [Ekahau] badges is the shortened response time in a serious situation", notes Will Barber, Skyview's Lead Building Administrator. "Previously, teachers had to leave the classroom or call the school's office to get help in an emergency."

Ekahau RTLS for school safety allows for faster response times and dynamic location awareness that gives school communities better peace of mind because the school is more prepared for a broad range of school security challenges all without relying on cellular networks. Ekahau Wi-Fi badges empower teachers with the capability to enact a school lockdown using the panic switch located on their badge; within seconds all classrooms on campus are notified and proceed with lockdown protocol. By using the school's Wi-Fi network, teachers can even receive assistance for medical emergencies and disciplinary issues without leaving their classroom.

"The Ekahau solution is going to change how we respond to



There's no waiting. There's no explaining. You're not going to lose precious seconds trying to justify why you need help. Help's just going to come."

-Nampa Police Chief
Craig Kingsbury

unwanted trespassers as well as health emergencies inside of schools," said Nampa Police and Skyview Resource Officer, Brad Ford. He adds, "This system has already proven effective by reducing our response time to a recent medical emergency at Skyview. The solution is even more compelling when you consider that it costs on average less than forty dollars per student, which means that almost any school can adopt this affordable solution to increase school safety."

Results with Ekahau School Safety Solution

In the past, lockdown scenarios relied on a single point of contact



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