



Grosse Ile Fire Department

Grosse Ile, Michigan

Dedicated to providing a fire safe community, Grosse Ile Fire Department serves and protects more than 11,000 residents. This department is responsible for firefighting and basic emergency medical services. Grosse Ile Fire department also focuses on improving the firefighting and emergency medical care capabilities of its members and educating residents on the causes and prevention of fires and proper fire safety procedures.

The challenge

“Adverse weather endangers lives. We need fast, reliable weather information in order to determine when, where, and how severe weather will impact our community helping us provide valuable warning time, as well as prepare a more rapid, concentrated response,” said Duncan Murdock, fire chief, Grosse Ile Fire Department.

The Telvent DTN solution

Grosse Ile Fire Department utilizes MxVision WeatherSentry®, a PC-based system that enables them to serve the community more efficiently. MxVision WeatherSentry is an easy-to-use weather system that incorporates the latest in display technology with best-in-class forecasts.

Results

Grosse Ile is comprised of 14 islands, in the Detroit River. In this location, storms that develop in the west pick up moisture as they move along Lake Michigan, making heavy rain and ice storms a major concern for the Grosse Ile Fire Department.

“Our community has an abundance of trees and when we experience severe weather, we also experience heavy power loss and an increase in our call volume. MxVision WeatherSentry shows us when the storm will hit and its magnitude. This information helps us decide whether or not we need to call in more people to respond and gives us an idea of what to expect in order to better prepare and respond to emergency services and fire calls. MxVision WeatherSentry keeps us informed, allowing us to make more rational decisions,” said Murdock.

MxVision WeatherSentry also provides valuable warning time to the community. The Grosse Ile Fire Department incorporated MxVision WeatherSentry into their early warning alert system, disseminating vital information into the community faster. Alerts from the MxVision WeatherSentry are sent to a private local radio station, private cable TV station, and the command center. When a severe weather alert sounds, the department sends out the communication to the community and sets off the sirens.

"MxVision WeatherSentry provides an opportunity to take a proactive measure to protect the lives and property in the area. Early warning allows us to activate local sirens to alert citizens— providing them with more time to take cover and our team time to react," said Murdock.

Recently, they upgraded to the online version of the product which offers expanded access to real-time weather information.

The client's view

"MxVision WeatherSentry puts us in front of the storm and ahead of the game. With real-time, accurate weather information at our fingertips we are able to make thoughtful, well-informed decisions more quickly and easily."

Duncan Murdock, fire chief, Grosse Ile Fire Department

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