hazconnect

CASE STUDY

Las Vegas Does Not Gamble on its Hazmat Inspection and Emergency Response

Key Challenges

"Difficult to Access Information"

- **Planner had to locate chemical reports back at the office in a filing cabinet.**
- **Compliance officers had to call the State Fire Marshal's Office to know if a hotel or chemical facility had a current permit.**
- **Planners spent hundreds of hours creating a target hazard book for hundreds of the sites which included preplanning of SDS's and sites drawing.**
- **CAD technicians spent many hours updating site location and chemical quantities in their Computer Aided Dispatch System to aid fire fighters during a response call.**
- **The Hazmat Responder had to depend on information that chemical site owners shared about chemical inventory onsite during the pressures of an emergency.**

Results with Hazconnect

- **Fire Departments, Responders, and Hazmat teams can pull up real-time chemical quantities, first aid guides, and risks anytime, anywhere with a simple internet browser.**
- **Significantly improved productivity in Site Compliance Tracking, Inspections, Emergency Planning, and Response.**
- **Inspectors use the system to conduct their hotel inspections, a primary portion of Hazmat duties.**
- **Compliance Officers can pull up sites permit status for each Las Vegas hotels and other chemical sites.**

You may have not heard about Clark County, Nevada. But you probably have visited its most famous city - **Las Vegas**. The city has been growing rapidly over the last decade. This means that emergency planners in Clark County, NV face a growing number of factors when assessing risks in these rapidly changing communities.

Fire authorities plan for accidental chemical releases or spills at one of the County's chemical storage facilities. Hazmat inventory reports were traditionally mailed from businesses to the State and Counties, which is used to conduct site inspections, develop plans, exercise response scenarios, and inform them during an actual emergency. But, the on-the-ground reality was very different.

Wading through reams of paper reports each made it very difficult for the small Emergency Planning teams to update their assessments, much less create proactive pre-plans for each site storing hazardous chemicals.

In 2007, Clark County adopted Hazconnect to immediately access online chemical inventory reports and emergency planning information and collaborate with other planners and responders to assess risks. "It was very limited before but now we now have easy access to the data. We used to have to go to the chemical sites or call the State Fire Marshal's office to see if the site had a compliant Fire Marshal and SERC Permit. Now with Hazconnect, we are able to see the permit status by pulling it up on a tablet. It's been a real time saver," said Mr. Brenner.

The system has improved productivity for compliance, inspections and emergency planning. "Every one of the Las Vegas hotels is its own city. The database gives us point of contacts for our hotels as well as quantities and chemicals stored." said Mr. Brenner. Worst Case scenarios are stored in the system to help with emergency response measures. It is also used to provide the local Air Force with reports on tracked sites like those storing ammonia, chlorine, and titanium in the area.

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