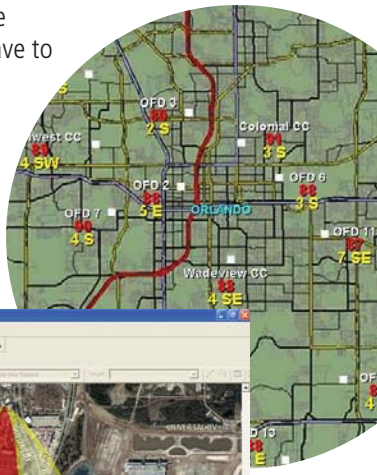
Case Study

City of Orlando

Real-time, local weather information for critical, real-world decision making.

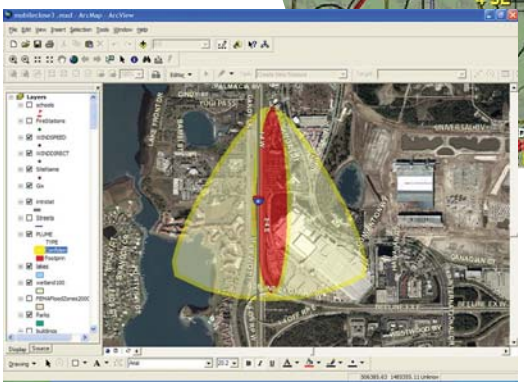
When the public depends on the City of Orlando, they depend on WeatherActive™

Today and everyday the Fire, Police and Public Safety officials of any city need to be ready for a multitude of hazards – both natural and manmade. Events like chemicals spills and industrial accidents can happen anytime. They have long been safety concerns. Now there are other dangers, perhaps even more challenging. How can you protect the public from the worst that mother nature and mankind have to offer? The City of Orlando does it with WeatherActive.



Critical, real-time weather information with the click of a mouse

WeatherActive provides accurate, hyper-local weather observations – updated every 2 to 3 seconds – to help the City's safety officials reliably monitor on-site conditions. National Weather Service (NWS) weather stations are generally located only at airports and simply provide hourly reports – far less than is sufficient for critical decision-making. In Orlando, information is collected from a network of weather sensors placed at strategic locations around city facilities. This network not only provides the ability to protect key assets, it can feed important weather information into several GIS-based programs to evaluate threats and aid in decision support. WeatherActive not only allows connection to meteorological stations, the core software component provides plug and play serial, network and digital/analog interfacing to a myriad of sensors and detectors.



The answer is blowing in the wind

WeatherActive gathers wind speed and direction readings in real-time to help with the dispatch of emergency personnel during hazardous weather conditions and to determine where toxins will disperse in the event of an accidental or intentional chemical release. This information can be coupled with plume dispersion models for further analysis during chemical spills or bio-terrorism events. Other sensors, detectors and collection devices can describe chemical, biological and radiological information key to incident reporting and monitoring.

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A solution for the whole city

Temperature, humidity, barometric pressure, lakes levels and rainfall are also collected from the City of Orlando's weather network. Accurate rainfall and lake level measurements grant the Engineering and Streets, Drainage and Sewer divisions of Public Works the ability to access important environmental information both in real-time – during storm events – and through archives. Accurate rainfall and lake level measurements facilitate improved land use and flood evacuation. The City of Orlando's HAZMAT van comes equipped with a mobile weather station to provide valuable on-site measurements like wind speed and wind direction for chemical, biological and radiological analysis. Optional sensors for IR temperature and soil moisture help to protect personnel and ensure safety during incident clean-up.

The complete picture

WeatherActive™ provides a unique, powerful and expandable solution capable of growing with the community to the meet the safety needs of any organization. With WeatherActive not only does the City of Orlando have an overall status of current conditions, they also have access to real-time, local weather and environmental data. This type of data, when displayed in GIS applications, can help to improve the operational picture, protect assets, plan and streamline evacuations, pinpoint additional at-risk sites like high-population centers, chemical storage depots and mass-transit facilities, and determine vulnerability assessment during emergency events. Being able to gain a clear picture of the incident and direct resources to implement preventative measures can save property and lives. That is the true measure of success.

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