

ARSON IN CHESTERFIELD

Chesterfield County, Virginia experienced a series of arsons last June - they had a person setting rubbish fires within a specific area of the county. With the assistance of FirstWatch, a geofence was established to notify the fire marshals on duty in real-time as these incidents occurred so an investigation could begin immediately. As with most serial arsonist, the nature of the incidents began to escalate and now involved abandoned buildings. FirstWatch expanded the geofence already in place to include these buildings and aid the fire marshals with the investigation and subsequent arrest of the arsonist. "The FirstWatch system was a valuable tool in identifying the pattern of the fires being set and provided quick notification of an incident to the investigators" said Captain Tommy Tucker of Chesterfield County Fire & EMS.



Real-Time Geographic Tracking of Respiratory Symptoms Related to Wildfires

In October 2003, many Southern California communities were ravaged by the worst firestorm in the state's history. San Diego suffered the most devastation of any community when the Cedar Fire destroyed more than 2,200 homes and burned approximately 280,000 acres of land.

Three days after the firestorm began, FirstWatch alerted emergency staff to a 110 percent increase in respiratory problems handled

by EMS crews. Respiratory cases, which normally represent 12 to 15 percent of the city's entire call volume, increased to 33 percent during this time.

Due to this emergency FirstWatch produced a map that showed breathing cases clustered in the midwestern section of the city, the direction in which the wind was carrying the majority of the smoke. As soon as an alert was sent to an emergency staff, steps were taken to re-

deploy EMS units to high cluster areas. Also, county health officials advised individuals with asthma and other respiratory conditions to continue to stay indoors.

"During the fires, when emergency staff was stretched thin, FirstWatch allowed emergency staff to anticipate the next cluster area" says Wayne Johnson, Chief Operating Officer of San Diego Medical Services Enterprise.

Measure NFPA Standards with FirstWatch Triggers!

"FirstWatch set up triggers for us to measure our compliance with NFPA 1221 against a 120, 106, 90 and 60 second time standard. Because FirstWatch provides their analytics in real time, we are able to get 'up to the minute' system feedback giving us the opportunity to correct problems as they occur, instead of a day or two later when we review traditional reports."

-Feedback from Charleston County Consolidated 911 Center

Northwest Fire Rescue District - Improved Response and Operations by Monitoring in Near Real-Time

"We needed something that was in real-time so we could react to trends and make decisions when it would make a difference," says Jim Long, Northwest Fire Rescue District Communications Coordinator. "FirstWatch helped us tremendously, and was also instrumental in helping us get reaccredited in January. It's a good watchdog that shows us at any given moment exactly what's happening in the communications center and to what extent we're making a difference in improving patient outcomes."