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TECH & COMM

CommandScope First Responder Technology Adopted by Top-Tier Fire Departments

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CHICAGO – The Class 2 Insurance Service Office (ISO)-rated (top three percentile) Elk Grove Village, IL, and the ISO Class 3-rated (top four percentile) Marquette, MI., fire departments both activated the CommandScope pre-incident plan program in their respective municipalities. Each fire department has consistently rated a top-tier department in the United States because of their fire suppression and response abilities and technologies.

“The Elk Grove Village Fire Department is responsible for lives and properties across a unique municipality,” says Stephen Nardi, CEO of RealView, LLC, developers of CommandScope. “Beyond the traditional business structures, schools and residential properties, there also is a 387-bed acute care hospital and the country’s largest business park – not to mention an unusual neighbor in O’Hare International Airport.

“The Marquette fire department is responsible for a unique community in that they have a lot of heavy industry with the port, it’s the home to Northern Michigan University, and there’s the Marquette Branch Prison,” Nardi continued. “While the community experiences fewer fire incidents than the Michigan average, the CommandScope technology will make first responders smarter as they respond to a wide range of emergency situations.”

CommandScope is easy to use. Building data is being entered to provide first responders critical property and occupant information. CommandScope provides first responders instant access to site plans, floor plans, utility shut-off locations, campus maps, fire hydrant locations, persons requiring special assistance, and other critical building information. It also is shareable with law enforcement, mutual aid and others so even responders unfamiliar with an emergency site will have working knowledge of the building, its occupants and its hazards.

The Elk Grove Fire Department consists of 84 fire, rescue and EMS personnel across four fire stations with one of those located within the Elk Grove Business Park – the largest industrial park in the U.S. with more than 62 million square feet of inventory on five square miles of property.

Beyond response, the department conducts pre-plan inspections at schools, day care centers, churches, hospital and medical facilities, multi-family residential occupancies, restaurants, theaters, hotels, office and commercial occupancies, and industrial buildings or processes.

Marquette has the largest school district in the UP and Northern Wisconsin with about 3,100 students and 420 faculty and staff. It also is home to the only level 2 trauma center in the UP with Marquette General Hospital, where some of the communities most vulnerable are cared for.

Marquette fire personnel respond to many different types of emergencies and are trained in many different fields of rescue, including cliff rescue, hazardous materials, ice and water rescue, and terrorist threat responses. With CommandScope being a shareable technology, the Marquette Fire Department's mutual aid stations from surrounding townships can respond with the same amount of facility and property intelligence.

“Fires, hazardous material spills, active shooter situations, and natural disaster rescue are all top-tier situations where first responders need as much information as possible to be effective,” Nardi says. “We designed CommandScope with the mindset that it provides the advantage first responders need and deserve. We are excited to see this technology embraced by fire departments like Elk Grove Village and Marquette.”