



Business situation:

Crossroads directors were seeking a silent, wireless panic alert system to use in emergency situations. In October 2013, school leadership met with an RF Technologies' representative and learned that their offering of an RTLS (real time locating system) Help Alert Mobile Staff Duress Solution could be obtained through a Pennsylvania Department of Education Safe Schools Grant. The Crossroads' team submitted the grant application for consideration and was successful in obtaining funding.

Customer Feedback:

"Our expectation of the Help Alert system was that it would simply provide our staff with a panic button that could be used in times of emergency. We found the system to provide more than we anticipated. The data collection components and the graphic system interface have empowered our administration team."

– Nicholas Falcon, Principal,
WIU Crossroads School

WIU Crossroads School turns to Help Alert® Mobile Staff Duress Solution to become a safer, more efficient learning environment

Westmoreland Intermediate Unit (WIU) Crossroads School in Greensburg, Pennsylvania provides an Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth (AEDY) program for students in grades 6-12 who are persistently disruptive or could benefit from intensive therapeutic emotional support in a substitute placement.

The unique environment of WIU Crossroads heightens the potential for disorderly or sometimes violent behavior that could require intervention by professionals trained in the de-escalation of disruptive and potentially dangerous episodes. By wearing wireless, mobile Help Alert pendants staff can silently and discreetly summon immediate assistance in the event of verbal or physical conflicts, medical emergencies and other situations that require additional staff intervention – simply with the press of a button.

Solution

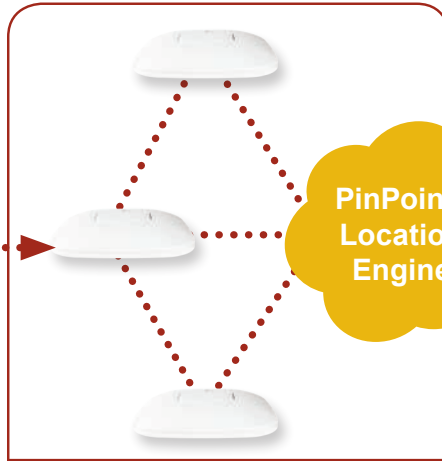
Of the mobile emergency call systems reviewed by Crossroads, Help Alert was selected because there was no need to add a costly infrastructure. The solution utilized the school's existing Wi-Fi network and access points for location calculation, and Help Alert's battery-powered, Wi-Fi based reference tags were added to supplement in areas where enhanced location accuracy was desirable.

The Help Alert solution uses RTLS that includes a robust location engine. Working seamlessly within the existing Wi-Fi infrastructure, (1) the school's access points, (2) Help Alert's wireless reference tags, and (3) the Help Alert pendant tags, triangulate to provide a high level of location accuracy.





Pendant



Existing Wi-Fi



Device Notification

Benefits

Security for students and staff is paramount to Crossroads and the ability to respond to an event in a timely manner is extremely critical. The Help Alert system, installed at the school in 2014, provides timely assistance when needed and reduces the chances that an incident of bullying or violence will escalate into something more serious.

According to Principal Nicholas Falcon, “Help Alert has provided our teachers and staff with an effective means of immediately communicating their need for assistance. Alerts yield a greater staff presence in areas experiencing conflict, therefore, students are deterred from inappropriate behavior.”

Schools should be a place where students feel safe and carefree while receiving education. Parents should not be overly worried about security concerns when their child is in school. Having a security system such as Help Alert helps alleviate these worries and demonstrates the school has done its part to help provide a safe learning environment.

“Our expectation of the Help Alert system was that it would simply provide our staff with a panic button that could be used in times of emergency. We found the system to provide more than we anticipated. The data collection components and the graphic system interface have empowered our administration team,” Falcon concludes.

“The Help Alert system is a great addition to Crossroads.”
- Dominic Demangone, Supervisor of Westmoreland Intermediate Unit #7; assisted with Pennsylvania Safe Schools grant writing

“Help Alert has been an asset in ensuring the safety of our staff and students. It has proven to be an effective tool in providing our administrative team with immediate notification of verbal and physical student conflict, medical emergencies and other situations that have required additional staff intervention.”
- Nicholas Falcon, Principal, WIU Crossroads School

RF Technologies is a leading provider of safety and security solutions for the healthcare, hospitality and education markets, leveraging radio frequency identification (RFID) and PinPoint® real-time locating system (RTLS) technologies.

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