

August 2016

In This Issue

- APAA & Incident Command systems
- SDI Accountability on Display
- Did You Know?

In APAA...

To download the most recent ride list information for a company, click the Refresh Roster button. The button becomes grayed out and reads "Attempting Roster Update..." while APAA updates the company's ride list.

Upon downloading the most recent ride list information, the Refresh Roster button returns to the default setting and the new ride list information is displayed. If the APAA is unable to update the company's ride list, the button does not return to the default setting, and a dialog box notifies the user of the failed attempt.

Accountability & Incident Command Systems

While demonstrating APAA and EasyStaff® to new and existing customers, we often receive requests for features that fall under the umbrella of "Incident Command Systems", or ICS. These requests typically lead to discussions concerning potential future APAA features and the differences between what is considered incident command versus what is considered personnel accountability.



APAA User Interface

ICS is a key component to FEMA's National Incident Management System (NIMS). FEMA defines ICS as:

- "...a management system designed to enable effective and efficient domestic incident management by integrating a combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure. ICS is normally structured to facilitate activities in major functional areas: command, operations, planning, logistics, Intelligence & Investigations, finance and administration."

SDI's APAA and EasyStaff® focus primarily on a subset of ICS – specifically, on meeting "Accountability" needs. Future development plans for APAA upgrades and features will delve more into the ICS wheelhouse, but the capability focus is on personnel accountability at incidents.

FEMA recommends that Fire Departments implement the NFPA "Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program" (1561, 2014 Edition) as a way to comply with NIMS standards. APAA and EasyStaff® target applicable NFPA requirements relative to accountability:

- "The fire department communications center shall start an incident clock when the first arriving unit is on-scene of a working structure fire or hazardous materials incident, or when other conditions appear to be time sensitive or dangerous."
- "The incident commander shall maintain an awareness of the location and function of all companies or crews at the scene of the incident," and "Company officers shall maintain an ongoing awareness of the location and condition of all company members."
- "Members shall be responsible for following personnel accountability system procedures."
- "The personnel accountability system shall be used at all incidents."
- "The fire department shall develop, implement, and utilize the system components required to make the personnel accountability system effective."

At SDI, we develop APAA and EasyStaff® features and capabilities to fundamentally address personnel accountability on the fireground.

Tips & Tricks

In the APAA Configuration Utility, configuration changes must be saved before closing the utility. Otherwise, any changes will be lost and not implemented in APAA. Select Save Configuration from the File pull-down menu to save configuration changes.

These products can leverage modern radio technologies, other sensor data, and data aggregation techniques to streamline and modernize fireground accountability procedures. A subset of current APAA and EasyStaff® features do play a strong role to partially assist incident command activities:

- Identifies firefighters on-scene (e.g., by name, Unit riding position)
- Identifies Units on-scene (e.g., Engine 1, Ladder 2)
- Enables assigning fireground roles at the Unit level (e.g., Engine 3 assigned to Interior Attack)
- Provides Unit countdown clocks (e.g., how many minutes has Unit been inside the structure)
- Provides incident timer (e.g., how long has incident been running?)

Future APAA features include significantly upgraded capabilities directly applicable to accountability and of potential use to incident command. APAA is implementing "Tactical Alert Messages" (see graphic). TAMs will enable



incident commanders to perform enhanced and more automated EVACs, assignment of Maydays, rollcalls, status updates, and more. Additionally, we are working on another major modification that uses APX radio GPS data to display responder location on a simplified map view. This will not immediately solve problems associated with in-building firefighter location, but it lays the groundwork for use of location data. The immediate benefit is for use in outdoor, wildfire-fighting scenarios where GPS data is of high value.

APAA will not dispense with the need for ICS in the foreseeable future. Most departments require some type of command board capability, especially at larger incidents. Instead, APAA serves as an innovative approach to augment fireground situational awareness with a major focus on personnel accountability and safety. SDI considers the ability to quickly and easily account for responders on the fireground to be of the utmost priority.

SDI Accountability on Display

Earlier this month, SDI attended the South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo (SAFRE) in Charlotte, NC and our personnel accountability solution is currently being showcased in Motorola booth #1337 at the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) Annual Conference & Expo in Orlando, Florida.

Next up, SDI will be attending the IAFC's Fire-Rescue International (FRI) Annual Conference & Expo on August 19-20 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas. Stop by Motorola's booth (#23096) to say hello and see us demonstrate our accountability products.



Did You Know?

- User guides, quick start guides, FAQs, videos, and the latest news from SDI are all available on our website: www.firegroundaccountability.com
- SDI is on Twitter (@systemsdef). Follow us to stay up-to-date on all of our fireground accountability activities.

EasyStaff is a registered trademark of Systems Definition, Inc.

APX is a trademark of Motorola Trademark Holdings, LLC

Contact Us: barryv@systemsdefinition.com

www.firegroundaccountability.com

(703) 717-0222 x116