



SafePointe

IMPROVING COMMUNICATIONS FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE



Cheney Public Schools serves the cities of Cheney and Airway Heights, Washington. Located in the Spokane west plains area, the Cheney community is known for its quality of life and education. The district has 10 school campuses and serves more than 4100 students. Cheney’s goal is to enable children to excel in education, which begins by providing a safe and secure learning environment.

Challenge

Cheney Public Schools has made significant investments in improving the safety within school campuses. These investments include video cameras to monitor activity, access control systems to keep entrance doors secure and hand-held radios for school administrative staff. One challenge Cheney Public Schools faced is the ability to rapidly communicate with teachers, staff and school resource officer (SRO) across the district during an incident. The existing mass notification system could send out a broadcast message, but it did not provide ability to receive communications from individuals during an active incident. The district wanted the ability for any employee to be able to quickly summon help with the press of a button. Additionally, Cheney wanted to improve information sharing and collaboration during an incident by simplifying access to cameras, attendance data, and other critical information required to respond to an incident.

Solution

Cheney Public Schools implemented the SafePointe solution from 4QTRS Holdings. SafePointe provided an integrated dashboard allowing secure access to critical data during an incident. Sgt. Kelly Hembach, School District Resource, Cheney Police Department, was impressed because “SafePointe provided a one-stop shop, integrating 10 school campuses into one focal point. You sign into one system and have access to any resource you need. It doesn’t matter where I am, I have full access to district resources.” The SafePointe dashboard features a floorplan view enabling users to quickly access cameras by simply clicking on the camera icon. Since each camera is represented in its exact location on the floorplan, users don’t have to know camera names or search through a list of camera locations. Users simply click the icon and the camera view opens. Additionally, users have access to student attendance data, emergency contacts, emergency response plans and many other information sources from the integrated dashboard.

We wanted to provide a silent alarm capability for our staff—similar to a bank alarm—you press the button and you know help is on the way. (Sgt. Hembach)

SafePointe’s mobile panic button application, InPointe, took incident communications to the next level. InPointe enables anyone to request assistance by a press of a button from a computer, smartphone or tablet. The alert is immediately sent out to designate resources. Communications can be one-to-one, one-to-many or many-to-many. The best part is that the InPointe alert is sent silently and securely, improving safety for the user.

A Safety Platform for the Future

SafePointe provides a solution platform that will grow as the district grows. Cheney plans to integrate the access control system and other devices and information systems in the future. Cheney is also planning to add local police, fire and ems to the SafePointe solution to improve communication and collaboration between school and first responders.

INPOINTE IMPROVES COMMUNICATION DURING BOMB THREAT

Just a few weeks after Cheney Public Schools implemented the SafePointe & InPointe solutions, one of their schools, Betz Elementary received a bomb threat. The school principal used the InPointe mobile panic button to alert personnel of the active threat and to follow evacuation procedures immediately. School resource officers received the InPointe alert and immediately responded to the school. While en route to the school, Sgt. Hembach radioed the principal at Cheney High School advising that Betz Elementary would be evacuating and to open the gym for student entry. The children were completely evacuated and at the high school within 7 minutes of the threat.

