



Case Study

Organization

Saginaw County Road
Commission

Location

Saginaw, Michigan, USA

Industry

County Public Works

Snowplow Management Made Easier

Averaging more than 40 inches a year, Saginaw County, Michigan, may not set the national record for snowfall. Even so, the county's more than 196,000 residents often suffer harsh winters that would paralyze traffic if it weren't for the intrepid maintenance crews of the Saginaw County Road Commission.

What did they do?

A fleet of 40 snowplows spent long hours clearing streets and highways and laying down tons of salt. To accomplish this arduous task, the Saginaw County Road Commission in 2007 fitted its snowplow fleet with automatic vehicle locator (AVL) systems made by CompassCom Software Corp., a Centennial, Colorado-based AVL and mobile resource management solutions provider for the commercial and public sector markets.

Do I need this?

CompassCom's devices integrate GPS, Esri® ArcGIS, and wireless technology into a flexible, end-to-end solution that provides a wealth of telemetry data that field foremen and office managers can use to adjust operations to ensure maximum efficiency, safety, and cost-effectiveness. Esri ArcGIS® technology also allows the public to view snowplowing progress during a storm and gives reassurance that roads are clear.

"It gives us an idea of what's going on out there . . . I can see the whole thing on my laptop."

Paul Gohs

District 3 Maintenance Foreman
Saginaw County Road Commission



Need more details?

Saginaw County's CompassAVL system is a public view utility designed to run embedded in a third-party portal such as an agency or company website. Employing ArcGIS for Server and ArcGISSM Online, it shows the county's maintenance fleet in action—to both supervisory field foremen and office managers. It also allows residents to zoom in to their specific streets and neighborhoods to track the progress of road-clearing crews during and after storms. The map shows the previous 10 hours of information before being updated.

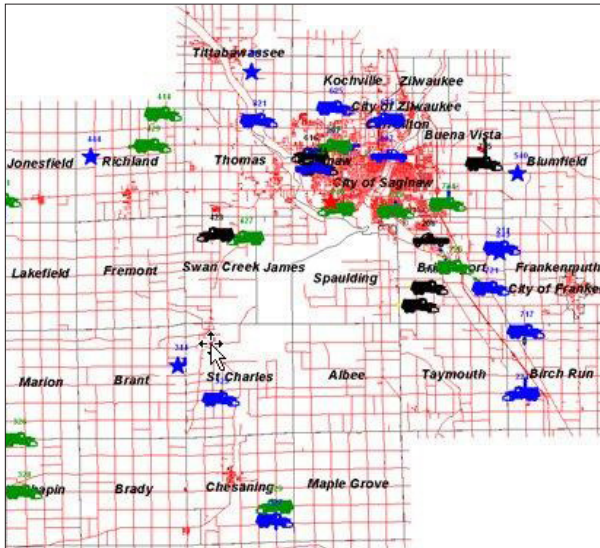


Real-Time Access for Foremen

"There's no question where they've been or the route they're taking. It helps prove efficiency, safety, and accountability," says Brant Howard, founder and CEO of CompassCom. "Citizens can see the routes themselves and know when their streets will be passable. They can be assured the city or county is on top of the storm," Howard says.

Mistaken claims of damage also can be avoided when people can see for themselves where fleet vehicles have been. CompassCom can provide replays for management to determine the legitimacy of many damage claims. This helps to avert potential mistaken claims and to discourage fraud.

CompassAVL is also used in street sweeping, lawn mowing, sanitation, road grading, and weed and mosquito spraying.



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