



# Mobile Solutions™ Success Story

## Emergency Response



Berne District Fire Chief Rich Guilz, Commissioner Mary Alice Molgard and Westerlo Fire Chief Tom Dieterich

The Berne and Westerlo Fire Districts, located in New York, needed a way to provide better accountability and greater safety for their firefighters during emergency events. After researching options, the two departments chose to make a joint investment in the Elliott Mobile Solutions™ Emergency Event Manager Solution (EEMS), which includes integrated hardware and software that provides the ability to identify firefighters and electronically track activity on-scene. The Mobile Solutions™ System was integrated and installed by LINSTAR, Inc., a local Certified Solutions Provider of Elliott's Mobile Solutions™ in New York.

The Berne and Westerlo Fire Districts coordinated an emergency response drill at the Berne-Knox-Westerlo School District to perform a large scale interior operations exercise with the help of LINSTAR representatives, to test, train and refresh the departments' skills and evaluate their new Mobile Solutions™ Emergency Management Accountability System in a live environment. Participants included personnel from local volunteer firefighting organizations including Berne, East Berne, Westerlo, Gallupville, Knox and Huntersland Fire Companies.

This exercise was executed with a heavy emphasis on firefighter accountability using the Elliott Mobile Solutions™ Command Center integrated with the EEMS and Mobile ID 1.0 software, a Mobile Command Case and multiple remote handheld devices to identify, track and manage personnel on-site.

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Firefighter Nick Minute is scanned "IN" by Commissioner Mary Alice Molgard at the remote checkpoint Safety Officer as Assistant Chief Kevin Dunnells communicates with his interior team.

Learn more about the  
Emergency Event Manager Solution  
[www.elliottmobilesolutions.com](http://www.elliottmobilesolutions.com)

### Overview

#### Customer:

Berne and Westerlo Fire Districts,  
New York

#### Challenge:

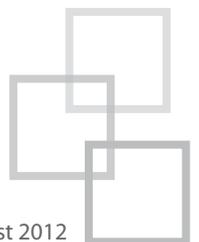
The Berne and Westerlo Fire Districts needed a way to provide better accountability for their firefighters located in and out of hot zones during emergency events.

#### Solution:

The Berne and Westerlo Fire Districts purchased the Elliott Mobile Solutions™ Emergency Event Manager Solution (EEMS) as a joint venture to improve accountability and safety of firefighters. The two districts worked together to host a large scale interior operations drill at the Berne-Knox-Westerlo School District to test, train and evaluate the system.

#### Results:

Multiple volunteer firefighting organizations participated during the emergency drill which ran through a dozen interior evolutions and successfully tracked all firefighters entering and exiting hot zones. Activity was managed from the system's on-site command center to ensure complete accountability of all firefighters exiting the scene with the completion of the exercise.





The event was a simulated emergency response to a burning elementary school. The six fire companies ran a dozen interior evolutions, involving two entry points for both search and rescue operations and firefighting. All firefighter activity was managed in real-time from the command post, a short distance from the school.

Firefighters and staff associated with the participating agencies had been previously credentialed, so they were able to easily check into the event upon arrival. All other personnel and participants that required credentials were efficiently enrolled and instantly provided ID badges as they arrived on-site, using third party IDs and drivers licenses to obtain much of their data.

Fire Chiefs from Berne and Westerlo monitored the command post while Safety Officers worked with representatives from LINSTAR at the remote checkpoints to scan firefighters "IN" using mobile handheld devices when they entered the building for search and rescue. Each firefighter was scanned "OUT" upon exiting the building. This process of electronically tracking and managing activity at the scene allowed the Chiefs managing the event from the command post to account for each firefighter while in the "HOT ZONES," providing real-time knowledge of who was in the "burning building" and who was not. The system's robust reporting features allowed the departments to run reports detailing activities that occurred during the exercise for viewing during the event and evaluation after completion.

**"Our new Elliott Mobile Solutions™ Accountability System worked flawlessly and the results exceeded our expectations. The system has proven to be a valuable investment in the safety and accountability of our firefighters and will improve overall efficiencies for our interior operations."**

– Rich Guilz, Berne Fire District Chief.

The success of the Berne and Westerlo Fire Districts Operations Drill left each of the departments better trained and prepared to capitalize on the Mobile Solutions™ Emergency Management System during future emergency events. In the future, Berne and Westerlo Fire Districts plan to utilize some of the additional system features to provide even greater accountability and control.



*Checkpoint Safety Officer Jen Duncan with LINSTAR FSE Gavin Carpenter stationed outside entrance to collect firefighter IDs and scan them "IN" and "OUT" of the hot zone.*



*Chief Guilz and Commissioner Mary Alice Molgard at the Command Center monitoring and managing event activity.*



*Intense evaluation of the accountability system, displayed all firefighters out of the building and accounted for by the end of the drill.*



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