



Ocean City Saves Nearly \$25,000 by Using PreventionLink™ to Deliver and Record Firefighter Training

Fast Facts



Location:

- Ocean City, Maryland

Population:

- 360,000+ (summer)
- 60,000+ (winter)

Department Size:

- 31 full-time paramedics and firefighters
- 41 part-time paramedics and firefighters
- 11 command staff
- 1 training officer

Special Honors:

- Awarded Maryland Seal of Excellence

Courses Delivered:

- 110 in seven months

Assignments Completed:

- 983 in seven months

Annual Training Budget:

- \$225,000, not including salaries

Annual Savings with TargetSafety:

- \$24,000-\$26,000

“PreventionLink is convenient, cost-effective and easy to use. With it, we have decreased our training expenses and improved our ability to track all types of instruction.”

*– 2nd Lieutenant Eric Peterson
Ocean City Fire Department*

OCEAN CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONDS TO NEARLY 6,000 CALLS PER YEAR. Most of these calls come during the busy summer months when this popular vacation destination is bustling with tourists.

To ensure that its firefighters were prepared to handle any type of call, Ocean City routinely delivered instructor-led refresher training. This meant that firefighters were spending more time in the classroom and less time practicing what they had learned. It also meant that the Department had to pay overtime for some of these refresher hours—at a cost of nearly \$8,000 a year.

Ocean City also lacked an integrated records management system and was, instead, maintaining Department training records in a three-ring binder. This made it difficult to quickly locate information and update employee transcripts.

An Online Alternative

After evaluating another online system, Ocean City selected TargetSafety's PreventionLink training and compliance management platform. Using PreventionLink, the Department can now conveniently and cost-effectively provide instruction to its firefighters. It can also maintain all of its training records—including instructor-led training—in the system and produce reports whenever needed.

Since implementing the program, Ocean City has taken advantage of PreventionLink's Custom Activities Manager and File Center to assign, track and record the completion of its own training as well as validate its employees' review of organizational policies. "PreventionLink saves us the time of having to manually verify that our firefighters have done what they say they've done," explained 2nd Lieutenant Eric Peterson, Ocean City's Training Officer.

The Savings and Benefits Add Up

While on PreventionLink less than a year, the Department has already realized a cost savings of approximately \$25,000. This comes not a moment too soon, as the City recently instituted a hiring freeze, along with other budget cuts.

Centralizing and automating the Department's training records has also yielded substantial time savings—protecting the safety of each firefighter by guaranteeing that their skills and refresher training is up to date.

With a new, online training model, Ocean City has successfully reduced the amount of time firefighters spend in the classroom, leaving more time for them to do hands-on, practical training. As a result, they are even better prepared to respond to call.

What's Next

Ocean City will soon add approximately 60 of its volunteer firefighters to the PreventionLink program. The Department will also start using PreventionLink's Custom Tests application as part of the annual re-certification testing process required for many positions. With this application, Ocean City can create its own online exams, assign them to firefighters and document and record the results.