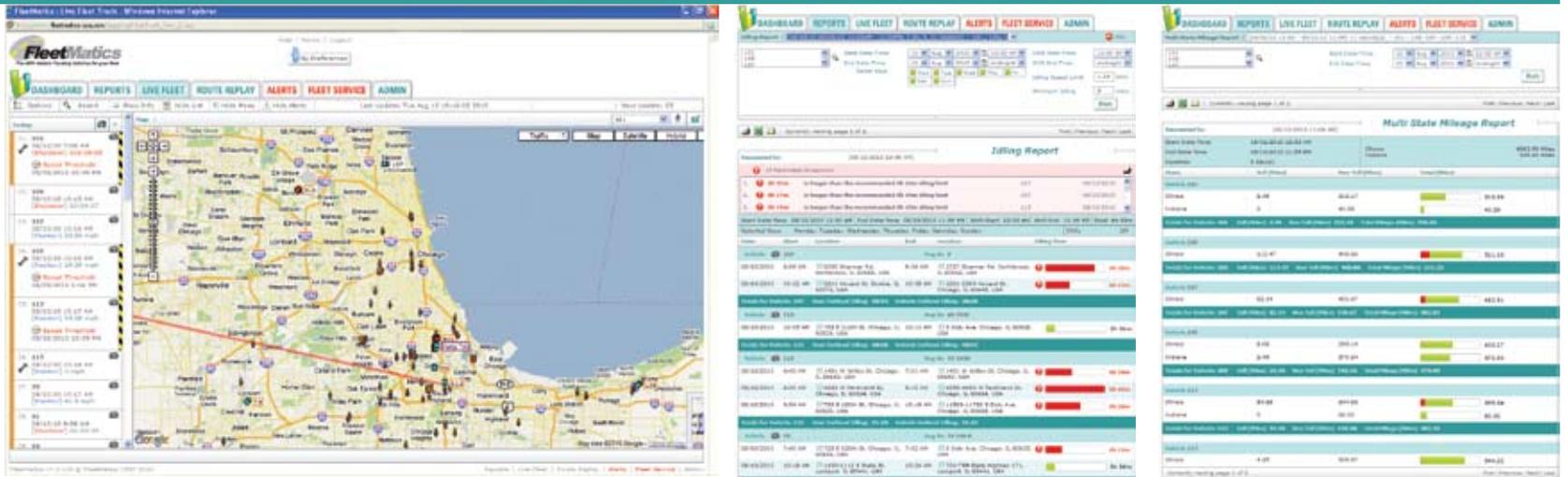


The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe applied GPS tracking to its nine solid waste vehicles. Information, including route and speed data, can be viewed on a Web-based interface.



Minding the Fleet

By Dave J. Patterson

The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe in New York state has a long and proud history of land stewardship. That is why, in the 1990s, residents of the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation moved to establish their own tribally operated solid waste curbside collection service. The new service, however, also needed to reduce the amount residents paid for collection. As a result, the tribe's Solid Waste Management Services (SWMS) had to keep operating costs as low as possible.

Tribe improves waste service with GPS vehicle tracking

Laura Weber, solid waste project manager for the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, decided that implementing the FleetMatics GPS tracking system on the department's nine vehicles would provide a reliable, low-cost solution for the tribe's waste management needs.

Reducing Costs & Improving Efficiencies

The FleetMatics GPS truck tracking system provides a wide range of cost-cutting and productivity-boosting features that can improve overall business viability.

Using the management reports, Weber easily is able to determine areas of cost leakage and take corrective actions to fix any issues. For example, the department had wasted work hours compiling mandatory mileage sheets. The mileage reports in the new tracking system automated this process, which improved efficiency and allowed work hours to be spent doing more productive tasks.

Weber also uses Live Fleet to improve routing and service. Using this tool, she knows the exact location of every vehicle in her fleet and can see exactly where they are travelling. This allows her to ensure that drivers are taking the most direct routes and completing their jobs in a timely manner. Weber also can use the FleetMatics Speed Alerts to ensure that drivers obey the posted speed limits. Excessive speed wastes fuel and increases the department's liability.

"Our drivers know that their speed is being monitored," Weber said. "As a result, I don't see speeding anymore, and overall driving is better."

With direct routing and reduced speed, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe SWMS has lowered fuel costs, which translates to lower costs for residents.

"I've been working on our budget," Weber said, "and with FleetMatics, I have been able to reduce the budget by \$1,200 for the year."

Precise Tracking

FleetMatics GPS utilizes an intuitive, Web-based interface. This allows Weber to access the system from any computer with an Internet connection. The software is designed specifically for ease of use. Busy managers can look quickly at the dashboard to get an overall view of fleet performance, or drill down to get more data about specific vehicles.

"I work from a remote location, and my operation supervisor is on the road all the time," Weber said. "The FleetMatics system allows us to monitor exactly where our trucks are no matter where we are working."

The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Environment Div. also uses the system to keep track of a compaction trailer that is hauled by another company. Using Live Fleet, Weber can be sure that the contracted driver meets his or her obligations on the road.

"With FleetMatics, I can make sure the driver isn't taking the trailer somewhere they aren't supposed to," Weber said. "I can also notify the driver's supervisor if they exceed the speed limit, and make sure our trailer is safe."

With its new GPS fleet tracking in place, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe SWMS has achieved its goal of providing residents better service at a lower cost.

"We've been very impressed with FleetMatics," Weber said. "Things are getting done more quickly and efficiently with less overall costs." **www**

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