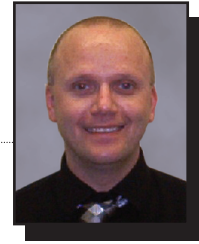


GPS: GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM



by Les Mitchell

The evolving GPS tracking devices and related software technology continue to expand into numerous applications. GPS locating devices have been around for sometime now but their applications were limited. We have all heard advertisements from auto manufacturers regarding how helpful the onboard GPS device has been with assisting in unlocking doors, aiding a client during a health crisis or even locating a stolen vehicle. Some of us have even seen “the unsuspecting vehicle thief” captured by bait cars utilizing GPS tracking.

The GPS systems offer much more with newer applications to come. The GPS tracking and management applications are excellent opportunities for corporations, allowing them to monitor fleet vehicle performance and ensure employees are accountable for their activities. These opportunities allow corporations to provide accurate reviews related to company vehicle usage and also to reward those employees who are working hard and to manage those who are hardly working. Corporations are given a means of added security by allowing them to improve safety, monitor seatbelt usage, track speed history or activities, and idle and travel usage. This can improve efficiency and cut costs. The applications can also assist with helpful vehicle activity records including mileage, stops and durations, and can prove useful statistics to prevent losses and preventative fleet maintenance.

GPS tracking has become very popular with industrial use applications as well. This technology can help monitor equipment usage and locations, warn of potential safety hazards and maintain records of these activities. Applications can be customized to a client’s requirements, depending on supplies and manufacturers equipment and/or software availabilities. Industrial usage may be applied to construction equipment, trailers, transport and waste management companies just to name a few. With equipment

and machinery, the GPS applications for tracking and usage can be used to locate abandoned equipment, monitor equipment hours and verify equipment activities, therefore reducing equipment downtime.

Knowing exactly where your vehicle’s equipment, assets and even family members are can be crucial to the profitability of your company, your employees’ safety or even your family’s peace of mind. Some special features could include airbag deployment, door control, speed monitoring and hydraulic deployment. An interesting feature is the application of geo-fencing capabilities. This application can ensure a client is notified when specific geographical boundary limitations have been crossed.

GPS tracking devices and software are also becoming a popular tool in the world of finance. People tend to move a lot more these days and when your security becomes at risk, the peace of mind provided by these devices and applications can decrease your exposure to such risks. The recovery of your security could be done in a more timely fashion with the ability to provide a potentially safer recovery.

With the continued evolving usage of GPS devices, they may be limited only to the imagination of the user and the talent of the software creator. You need only ask yourself what application opportunities you see for your corporation.

Les Mitchell is vice president of Wolfco.Bailiffs, which specializes in a wide range of solutions that assist with locating and recovering assets or funds. Mr. Mitchell has been in the repossession and collection industry since 1991 and possesses a wide scope of experience in this field.

Please direct comments and questions regarding this article to lmitchell@wosfmagazine.ca or use the reader response listing on page 30.

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