

# ROI SHOWCASE

## Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program

### TRIPOD DATA SYSTEMS CASE STUDY

#### Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP)

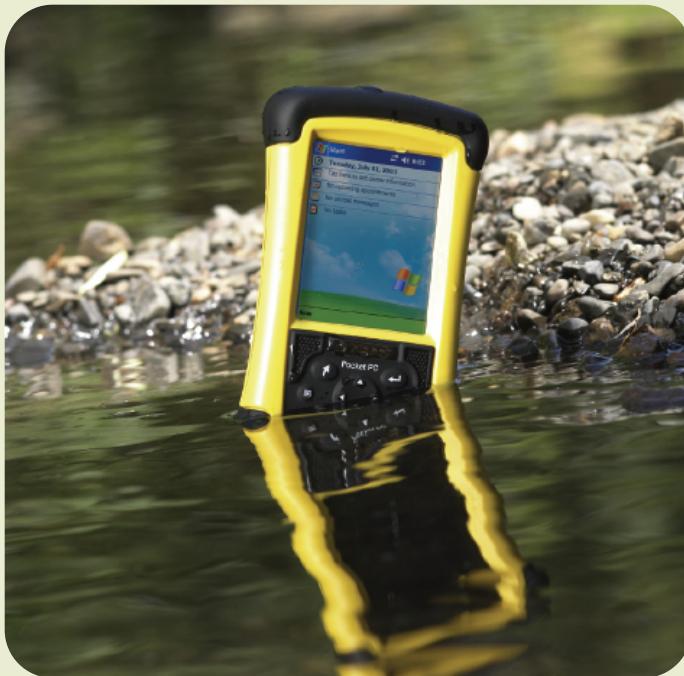
**Headquarters:** Umatilla, Ore.

**Line of Business:** Public Safety

**The possibility** of an emergency at a chemical stockpile is a dreaded event, but one for which readiness is essential. The Umatilla Chemical Stockpile in Oregon—one of eight sites nationally run by the U.S. Army—has had the CSEPP program in place for years. However, the plan was on paper, filed in binders and only reviewed once a year. Examining the gaps in this system, program directors began looking for a way to communicate the enormous amount of detailed information to responders in case of an emergency in real time, and without any paper shuffling.

Program director Casey Beard knew that a handheld computer was the way to go, but the first few he tried couldn't hold the amount of information needed and weren't tough enough to withstand the field conditions involved. Then he found Tripod Data Systems' (TDS) Recon rugged handheld. The Recon runs Windows Mobile and works long hours in harsh conditions. It meets tough military standards for drops, vibration and temperatures, and its IP67 rating means it's impervious to dust and moisture. CSEPP bought 50 Recon's.

The lightweight Recon has enough storage to put the entire response plan at the responders'



fingertips, and they can even view real-time maps of chemical plume speed and direction. The Recon's capabilities also prompted CSEPP to help coordinate the creation of a 600-mile-wide wire-

less network connecting seven cities in two states, decreasing communication problems and speeding up emergency response efforts.

While Beard hopes his response team will never need to use the Recon's for an actual chemical emergency, he distributed the handhelds for his responders to use in their everyday jobs so they would be familiar with them. The volunteers—many police officers and firefighters—had no problem putting the Recon's to work on projects like mapping hydrants, completing paperless inspection and alarm reports and analyzing crime patterns.

With the Recon's capabilities and a wide-ranging Wi-Fi network, the Umatilla area is a much safer place for everyone involved.



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#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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