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G. I. S. - APPLICATIONS IN THE
PHOENIX FIRE DEPARTMENT

Abstract: Public safety interest in G.I.S. is
rapidly expanding. Software programs offer the
ability to track incidents by type, such as heart
attacks or shootings. Elongated response times for
police and fire units can be plotted to determine
the placement of new stations in those areas which
have an above average response time. Fire companies
that have an unusually high number of incidents in
their area (3500 or higher) can have those incidents
plotted on a map in a matter of minutes. Management
can then review that information and make decisions
on the allocation of new or existing resources to
help with the increased workload. This paper will
look at many possibilities of G.I.S., both as a
management tool for planning and as a resource to
provide day-to-day operational information.

INTRODUCTION

The Phoenix Fire Department has recently completed the
purchase of a computerized Geographic Information System
(G.I.S.). The Department had several items to consider in the
requirements area:

1)   The system must be user friendly
2)   The system should provide expandability (how many
        applications can we have?)
3)   The system should provide compatibility with change
        (can we add/delete features we need for future use
        or delete facilities as we consolidate into a more
        centralized data environment?