Case Study: Irish Navy

Fire alert management in limited space

Irish Naval Service shores up it's emergency response with AlertNet

The Irish Naval Service is Ireland's principal seagoing agency, meeting the State's maritime defence requirements from its base in Haulbowline Island in Co Cork.

The Challenge

The Irish Naval Service operates in a unique environment. In the tight quarters of a naval ship a fire can spread quickly. In this scenario, reaction time is critical.

The Irish Naval Service previously relied on manual fire announcements but this method of passing on accurate information, quickly, was subject to human stress, and could potentially lead to delays and misinformation. The Naval Service required a system they could rely on to react immediately to deliver the necessary, accurate, information to the right people.

The Solution

Sigteq's AlertNet was initially installed on the LE Samuel Beckett, one of the Navy's Offshore Patrol Vessels. During a one-year trial period AlertNet streamlined the Naval Service's emergency response system: the emergency response team (ERT) was equipped with radios that were capable of receiving text notifications, and all alerts were automatically forwarded via this radio channel.

The new system enabled the Navy to reduce its first responder time by 1 minute, vital seconds in a ship environment. In addition, all information received by the team included accurate location data enabling them to react more efficiently to any incident.

The Response

As part of a competitive tender, Sigteq showcased its AlertNet platform to the Irish Naval Service. Importantly for the Naval Service, the AlertNet platform is not an off-the-shelf solution; it can be fully customised to meet even the most unique of requirements. AlertNet has completely modernised the Naval Service's fire notification and response process with the new process now being fully automated and custom designed considerate of the limitations and impacts associated with fire emergencies in close quarters.

"We needed a scalable and flexible solution and Sigteq have a proven track record of customisation. They have the expertise to integrate AlertNet with any existing system, manipulating legacy data and seamlessly bringing it into the AlertNet platform,"

The Results

Following the year-long pilot, AlertNet was rolled out across the Navy's entire fleet of nine ships and at its oil wharf.

Not only has AlertNet automated and streamlined the Irish Navy's emergency response, it has also enabled the Navy to reduce the number of crew members who need to remain on their ships at all times.

"The AlertNet platform is a robust system that clearly and precisely alerts our team in the event of a fire on board. We have the reassurance that all information is accurate, which saves us valuable time and brings increased efficiency to our response team,"