



SUCCESS STORY

Cottage Grove (MN) Fire Dept.

Back before Cottage Grove’s firefighter/paramedics were tasked with responding to all medical emergencies, scheduling firefighters was easy.

Chief Rick Redenius could quickly build out his coverage, splitting crews into teams and squads that worked every sixth day. He’d punch the firefighter squads into an Excel spreadsheet and send out copies to the force via e-mail.

In 2013, Cottage Grove shifted primary ambulance services from police to its fire department and Redenius inherited more scheduling responsibilities. Thankfully, he also inherited the Aladtec platform, which had been introduced by then EMS coordinator Wes Halvorsen several years earlier.

Cottage Grove has a unique public safety model that runs both police and fire paramedics. All Cottage Grove firefighters — whether full or part-time — must also hold EMT or paramedic certifications. The fire department runs a duty crew of four to six people at one main station, around the clock. The duty crew is responsible for station duties, EMS, and fire calls, as well as public education.

Scheduling full time personnel was a simple task, using the Repeat & Rotation function, but Redenius found efficiencies with Aladtec when it came time to schedule any of 50 part-time paid personnel into two 24-hour shifts for each day.

The bulk of the task takes about 30 minutes every two months, conducted at the start of a Tuesday evening drill, a month before the new schedule will begin.



Firefighters appreciate the ability via the web to see their schedules, make trades and request time off via a smartphone or home computer whenever they like.

— Rick Redenius, Fire Chief & Deputy Director of Public Safety



DEPARTMENT INFO

ROSTER

13 FT firefighterparamedics, 50 PT on-call firefighter-paramedics

CALLS

3,068 (279 fire, 2,789 EMS) in 2017

SERVICE AREA

36 sq. miles, approx. 36,000 people. Cottage Grove also provides EMS coverage to some 9,000 residents in the neighboring communities of Gray Cloud, St. Paul Park and Newport

APPARATUS

4 engines, 1 ladder, 3 ALS ambulances, 2 brush trucks, 2 UTVs, airboat shared with Washington Co. Sheriff's Dept

CHALLENGES

Mississippi River frontage (approx. 23 miles) with heavy commercial and recreational boat traffic, 80-train per day freight and passenger rail corridor, industrial aggregate- and chemical manufacturing facilities, Interstate highway

SPECIAL SKILLS

4 firefighters serve on WashCo dive team

Aladtec users since 2013



Rick Redenius

Chief Rick Redenius, with 28 years at Cottage Grove Fire Department and 19 years as a police officer, became Deputy Director of Public Safety & Fire Chief in 2012 after rising through the ranks from Engineer to Captain and Deputy Chief.





Aladtec®



Neighboring agencies also using Aladtec

Inver Grove Fire & Rescue, Cottage Grove Police, Woodbury Public Safety, Allied Barton Security, Regions Hospital Education, North Memorial Flight Services and Prescott (Wis.) EMS.

Firefighters' bids are entered based on seniority. Each submits a desired schedule — a minimum of 36 hours each month — and a deputy chief or lieutenant enters them into the Aladtec system. Unfilled slots are tagged with the "sign-up" feature. Those are usually filled within three or four days.

If they choose, Aladtec's "Availability" feature allows them to streamline the process by automatically assembling monthly schedules based on each firefighter's available dates, seniority, hours worked and date preferences.

Firefighters appreciate the ability via the web to see their schedules, make trades and request time off via a smartphone or home computer whenever they like, the chief said.

Along with scheduling, Redenius uses Aladtec's Forms section extensively. Among the 20 forms are:

- Daily ambulance pre-shift check form
- EMS equipment and supply work order forms
- "Fix My Truck" forms for EMS and fire
- "Gear Wash" form

- Monthly Safety Audit forms
- SCBA cylinder and pack check forms
- "Sunday OSHA Ambulance Clean" form
- Turnout Gear Inspection form

Redenius finds nothing else offers him the scheduling tools and ability to efficiently push out text and email messages to crew members in a flash.

Members also appreciate their ability to schedule shift reminders to themselves.

And Aladtec's technical support has been good and help is readily available.



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Want to learn more? Let's talk.

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