



Topcon's GMS-2 expedites fire hydrant inventory

Agency: Water Services Dept. / Athens Utilities
Location: Athens, AL

Project: Fire hydrant mapping for insurance certification
Location: Athens, AL

Topcon Products:
GMS-2 GPS receiver/GIS mapping device/field controller
HiPer Lite GPS base
(2) HiPer Lite GPS rovers
GTS-235W total station

Athens Utilities, owns and operates multiple services for the City of Athens and outlying areas. Natural gas and electric systems are managed by subsidiary departments. Another subsidiary department - Water Services Department - is responsible for the operation, maintenance and expansion of water and wastewater facilities.

In April of 2006, the Athens fire department began an Insurance Services Office (ISO) certification process.

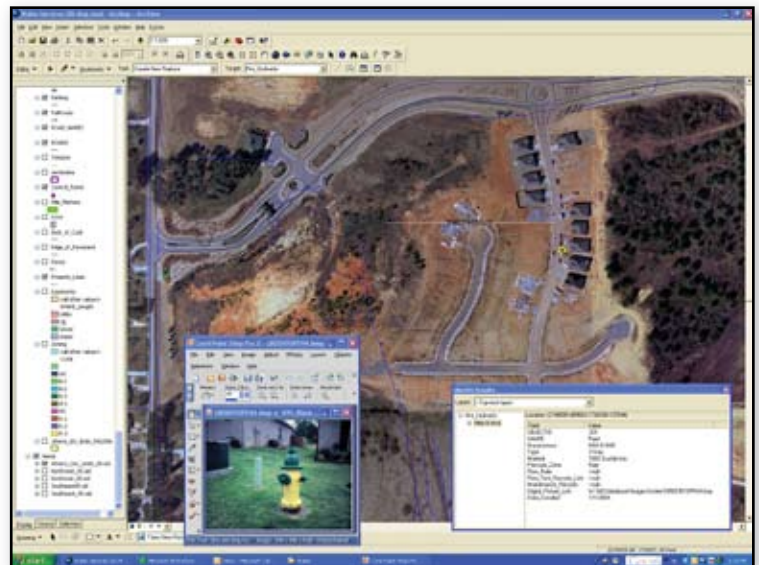
To ensure the proper fire insurance ratings would be applied, Bedsole was asked to provide locations and flow rates of all hydrants. The hydrant information in the city's GIS database was incomplete. With Bedsole's workload and multiple responsibilities, he had logged only 75 hydrants.

Shortly after the request for comprehensive hydrant data, Bedsole acquired a Topcon GMS-2 from Roger Wheeler, technical sales representative of Hayes Instrument Company, Shelbyville, Tennessee. He worked on the project in short segments as often as his busy schedule allowed and collected data on more than 250 hydrants in a period of three weeks.

Bedsole explained that the GMS-2 was a perfect solution for his needs. "For mapping fire hydrants, the sub-meter



**Jonathan Bedsole, P.E. staff engineer
Water Services Department**



accuracy level of WAAS-corrected DGPS is perfect," he said. "The 1.4 psi difference in flow rates within the distance of one meter is negligible when working with pressures in the 50-70 psi range and can be discounted."

"The real benefit is that I don't need to set up my RTK GPS system to start logging installations," Bedsole continued. "If I have 30 minutes between other responsibilities, I can just grab the GMS-2 and head out to the field. I can collect a considerable amount of data in the time it would take me to set up and take down the RTK system. I've been able to collect 40 hydrants in one and a half hours."

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