



New York City Uses InVision Secure to Support Event Planning & Operations for Super Bowl XLVIII

When it came to Super Bowl XLVIII, New York City and New Jersey had to come together to plan for the big event, surrounding activities and overall operations. The Super Bowl was preceded by a week-long series of events along one of the most heavily visited streets in the world - Broadway. To create a public safety and emergency response plan for the events, the Fire Department of New York (FDNY) worked with several agencies including NYPD, OEM, New York City Department of Transportation, New Jersey OEM, Port Authority of New York/New Jersey, New York State OEM, New Jersey OIT, the FBI, the Mayor's Office, DOH and New York City DoITT, which is the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunication.

The Challenge

Super Bowl XLVIII brought fans from across the country to the New York metro area, and while the game was the main event, there were hundreds of smaller events leading up to the game – everything from parties to press events. In true New York fashion, these pre-game events were carried out on a large scale including turning a cruise ship into a 4,000 room hotel, nightly concerts, and transforming 13 blocks of Broadway into Super Bowl Boulevard.

While these attractions provided entertainment to visitors and residents alike, they introduced significant challenges for the public safety organizations in charge of protecting these millions of people. To address the scale and complexity of the challenges – including the process of coordinating state, local, federal and private agencies – the Fire Department of

New York worked with PenBay Solutions to roll out a new event management system to support planning and operations throughout the Super Bowl and the weeks leading up to it.

“We had 45 temporary venues that were set up on Super Bowl Boulevard,” said Captain Steven Pollackov of FDNY’s GIS Unit. “Between the two jurisdictions (New York and New Jersey), Super Bowl activities covered 197 square miles. And we had a very short timeline to implement a system that was up to meeting a vast array of public safety challenges surrounding the big event.”



The Solution

The FDNY GIS Unit has been using InVision software since 2012, and when it came time to address the complex public safety challenges of managing hundreds of pre-Super Bowl events, FDNY tapped PenBay to help implement additional InVision modules and capabilities. The system was delivered using InVision SecureSM and Esri[®] ArcGIS[®] Online to provide key capabilities to FDNY and their partners, including planning, operations and situational awareness.

“We turned to our friends at PenBay Solutions for help in mapping out all the events throughout New York City and New Jersey,” said Captain Steven Pollackov. “This effort was supported by the NFL who provided CAD drawings for everything, right down to Super Bowl Boulevard. With all the data input into InVision Secure, we were able to create our incident and emergency plans.”

“PenBay Solutions was instrumental in helping us with all the agencies we worked with to gather data, and for implementing a public safety system that met our needs for the Super Bowl.”

PLANNING

Super Bowl planners used InVision Secure to create and manage event information as they mapped out their operational pre-plans using a set of public safety templates. For FDNY, this included the locations of field resources, street closures and routes and operational zones. InVision Secure enforced a foolproof review process that allowed user access only to approved and authorized event plans.

OPERATIONS

In the week leading up to the game, FDNY and their partners used InVision Secure to support a full range of operational users, including those in the command and mobile command centers, resources in the field with mobile devices, and partner agency members. These users were able to see real-time feeds of current and upcoming events, venue information, and multiple layers of critical pre-planning and intelligence data. Whether accessing the application from the field or a command center, everyone was always looking at the same, up-to-date data, which was additionally used in printed maps.



Users captured field notes on Super Bowl XLVIII Boulevard.

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

Using InVision Secure, FDNY could authorize users to access building information, venue schematics, live video feeds, floor plans, pre-incident guidelines, emergency action plans and subway data. Field users were able to create field notes from their mobile devices and attach photos, with the data instantly made visible back in the command centers.

“The department was so impressed with the application that we went out and purchased 25 iPads to utilize for this event,” said Captain Pollackov. “We gave field personnel the ability to take snapshots and add points to the map to improve our situational awareness.”

Key Benefits

SAVE TIME WITH UNIVERSAL SEARCH

Using InVision Secure, FDNY authorized users were able to easily search for and find any of their resources. “I could search for staff assignments, for example, and zoom into that Alarm Investigation Team,” said Captain Pollackov. “I could search by venue and zoom in on the programs and concerts being held there. The search feature was invaluable for making quick and accurate decisions throughout the event.”

DATA STAYS CURRENT & ACCESSIBLE

It was important for FDNY and the event constituents to see events that were happening at that moment, as well as upcoming events. “PenBay built us a system that refreshed,” said Captain Pollackov. “They developed two widgets - one that displayed current events and another that showed upcoming activities. Anyone working the event could see exactly what was going on that day. We could even query a span of several days - or a single day - and see a summary listing of all events within that timeframe.”

BRINGING TOGETHER EVENT CONSTITUENTS

“PenBay Solutions was instrumental in helping us with all the agencies we worked with to gather data, and for implementing a public safety system that met our needs for the Super Bowl,” said Captain Pollackov. “Our InVision Secure solution is a great application that we produced in a very short period of time. We have received great feedback from within the department and from other agencies. As we move forward, we will be utilizing this platform more and more.”

InVision **Secure**SM

Learn more about how an InVision public safety solution can benefit your organization!
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