

Case Study

Fire

## GETAC F110 KEEPS COLORADO FIRE DISTRICT CONNECTED...AND COOL UNDER FIRE



### Challenge

Colorado-based Cunningham Fire Protection District keeps 75,000 residents safe from fire and stands at the ready for other emergencies, but keeping everyone connected across the county and in extreme weather conditions isn't easy.

### Solution

The Getac F110 is a large-screen, rugged tablet that installs easily into each of the district's dozens of service vehicles, allowing for real-time communication between every vehicle in the fleet.

### Benefit

The F110 can handle the extreme temperature swings of Colorado, works whether the user has bare hands or is wearing gloves, and passes the requirements set out by CFPD's specifications— all ensuring that the citizens in its district are safer than ever.

## Case Study - F110 Fully Rugged Tablet

### / Challenge /

It's easy to think about firefighters battling a blaze with a hose, ladder, and axe, but the reality is that, for most fire prevention outfits, far more happens behind the scenes – and very little of it involves going anywhere near a blazing fire.

Cunningham Fire Protection District serves Arapahoe County and the City of Centennial, in Colorado (which includes some Denver suburbs and tracts of less-populated land), where it provides not just fire prevention and emergency services, but also delivers services related to community outreach, public assistance, permitting, and general emergency response to some 75,000 citizens that reside within the 14 square mile area. In a typical year, CFPD responds to more than 5,400 fire, EMS, hazardous materials, and public assistance calls.



## / Challenge /

CFPD manages three fire stations, each equipped with a fire engine and highly trained personnel. Two rescue units are also manned around the clock, ready to respond with advanced life support treatment and transportation to local emergency care facilities. All told, CFPD includes 66 uniformed employees and 7 civilian support staffers.

## / Solution /

CFPD set the path of looking for a computing device that could be installed in all vehicles and could assist with dispatching and other coordination needs when service vehicles were out in the field. Sure, any device can handle basic messaging services, but CFPD found it had more serious needs.

While members of the CFPD are constantly placed in harm's way when battling fires, apparatus such as fire trucks are kept a safe distance from flames to maintain their longevity of service and safety. That doesn't mean, however, that the contents of fire apparatus, including the Getac F110, aren't subject to extreme heat from the sun. At the same time, CFPD's location in mountainous Colorado means exposure to rain, snow and very low temperatures as well. In Denver next door, the all-time record low has been measured at -29 degrees Fahrenheit. In the summertime, the record high stands at a blistering 105. CFPD knew that it needed equipment that would work day in and day out, and could take a more than 130-degree temperature swing in stride. "When they're sitting out in the sun, it can get up to 120 degrees or more in the cab," says Spencer Luft, support services manager for CFPD.



Another huge problem: Vibration caused by motors and road surfaces. "Stuff just rattles around like crazy in there," says Luft, "and we needed something that could withstand it."

Solution: The Getac F110 G2, a rugged tablet that has quickly found a home in every CFPD vehicle. The Getac F110 is MIL-STD 810G and IP65 certified and is MIL-STD 461F ready. As part of those standards, devices are subjected to vibration testing and extreme temperatures on both ends of the scale – and left to operate for hours to ensure they can truly handle the heat (and the cold).

## / Benefit /

CFPD has installed Getac F110 tablets in 30 of its support vehicles, ensuring that no matter where responders are or what vehicle they're in, they can always rely on solid communication with the district, thanks to integrated wireless WAN in the F110.

And while the devices have performed well in their first seasons on the road, one of the biggest advantages that the district has realized from installing the F110 tablets has been how much space they've saved in the district's cramped vehicle cabs. While the F110 has a spacious 11.6" widescreen display, the unit weighs just 3 pounds and measures less than an inch thick. This has given the district great flexibility in where the units are placed and how they are positioned. Luft concurs. "We can just move them from one vehicle to another whenever they're needed." Luft also praised the anti-glare, sunlight-readable screen, which he says makes the F110 much more usable in direct sunlight.

Another big advantage: The touchscreen on the F110 works just as well with gloved hands as it does with a bare fingertip, meaning that responders in a hurry don't need to remove their gear in order to interact with the display. That's not just a matter of simple convenience. It could mean saving the few precious seconds that make the difference between life and death.

One area CFPD seriously considered was reliability. In their opinion, Getac offers a level of reliability that is second-to-none and after using the product their assessment was confirmed. "I generally count on a 10 percent failure rate when we implement new equipment," Luft added. "We saw none of that with Getac."