

CASE STUDY

Vegetation Management with Mobile Inspections and Work Orders for Maximo





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The largest power outage in North American history was caused by an overgrown tree that brushed up against a high-voltage powerline. Power outages are very serious, and companies work diligently to prevent them. A power company in the southwestern United States is successfully managing their vegetation by combining Maximo, GIS, and Prometheus Mobile for Maximo in one app.

The Case for Mobile

The power company's Transmission and Distribution (T&D) organization identified that efficiencies could be gained by converting their paper-based vegetation management program to an electronic inspection and work order process, with the result of saving time and money.

The inspectors and crews routinely retrieved paper maps of the city and stacks of work orders generated from their IBM Maximo® asset management system. They kept notes on these paper documents and scribbled on maps while in the field. Eventually information made its way from paper into Maximo, sometimes several weeks later. Operations managers struggled with confirming the age and location of reported issues.

Solution

The T&D selected Prometheus Mobile for Maximo because it is highly configurable. It can be configured to provide numerous views, such as a view of the work for field inspectors to capture data and upload it to Maximo for work prioritization and planning. It can also be deployed to contractors who can download work orders from Maximo to their devices for updating and reporting in the field. Also, Mobile for Maximo works even when disconnected from the network.

The solution was delivered to field inspectors and the contracted tree trimming company. The app design utilizes Esri's GIS mapping features and data from Maximo to create an easy-to-use, interactive map, displaying premises that are inspected and trees that require attention. All information is available and managed on ruggedized tablets, allowing inspectors and crews to view, complete, and add new work and work details while connected or disconnected from the network.

As part of their daily routine, the field inspectors and trimming crews arrive in the morning, grab their devices, synchronize their data, and depart for the day to complete their work. At the end of each day, the teams return to the office and upload their work from Prometheus Mobile for Maximo to Maximo.



The field inspectors now have the capability to view, add and modify all data in the field. The application is flexible and allows field inspectors to include important notes for the tree trimming company like, “Caution: There’s a dog in the yard.”

Results

Through the implementation of Prometheus Mobile for Maximo, this power company has significantly improved field personnel efficiency. With Mobile for Maximo, they keep trees trimmed to ten feet between trees and electrical equipment, while easily managing the costs for resources. They have also been able to increase the number of circuit inspections per year. They have up-to-date data for management to review and are realizing their goals of providing a mobile solution to their employees and contractors – one that is fast, easy, and reliable.

Benefits

-  Easy-to-follow forms that inspectors use to communicate which trees need trimming
-  A touchscreen map highlighting the route, circuit, and trees requiring trimming
-  Color-coding identifies teams and projects
-  Provides important notices about the job site such as dogs, locked gates, or other concerns
-  Identifies the number of tree trimmers required and what equipment they need (i.e., bucket, climbing)
-  Produces reports for management on key metrics to continue process improvements
-  Work can be done offline in the field and uploaded to Maximo when the teams return to the facility

About Prometheus Group

Prometheus Group is a leading global provider of comprehensive and intuitive enterprise asset management software solutions that work within ERP systems and span the full work management life cycle for both maintenance and operations. Developed jointly with end users, Prometheus software enhances the customer experience for planning, scheduling, and executing work for both routine maintenance and shutdowns and turnarounds, all while protecting the workforce with safety solutions and electronic permit to work. Our straight-forward functionality, graphical visualization, and simple processes enable customers to increase productivity, reduce costs, and improve reporting. For more information, please visit www.prometheusgroup.com.