

Mobile phone tracking via GPS with the aid of PTV-Software

According to the Björn Steiger Foundation, in over half of the four million cases of emergency calls made per year to German ambulance services, the callers cannot tell the ambulance where they are. Thanks to latest telematics technology, people in emergency situations can now be located - and in many cases this can help save their lives.

User: **Björn Steiger Stiftung Service GmbH**, service company of the Björn Steiger Stiftung e.V. (registered association)

Task: Mobile phone tracking platform for SOS calls via GPS

Solution: PTV MobilityPlatform and PTV LogisticsPlatform

“Especially in rural areas people use their mobiles to make an emergency call, since often there is nobody around who could help,” says Dieter Fecker, Head of the German Red Cross rescue service in Zollernalb. Since many of these callers cannot tell you where exactly they are, help is often delayed. “And in some cases every second counts,” adds Fecker. In order to be able to locate injured persons more quickly, the Björn Steiger Foundation decided to develop a mobile phone tracking platform.

Precise location data via satellite

The Björn Steiger Foundation aimed at cooperation with PTV because they were convinced that a software company with experience in the telematics field would be of great help in implementing the planned tracking platform. Basically the technology used for tracking vehicles is the same as for locating emergency callers. In both cases a GPS module forms the basis of the technology. In telematics applications the tracking technology is normally integrated into the vehicle; for locating people mobile phones can be used that contain such a module.

Thilo Schmalkoke, Sales Manager at PTV AG explains how the tracking platform works: “After an emergency call, the software converts the GPS coordinates of the mobile phone into an address and displays the position of the caller on a map. Then the system searches for the nearest emergency services and outputs all the information.” For verification of the GPS coordinates, conventional, less precise radio

cell location is employed.



SOS-call via a GPS mobile phone after a bike accident

For the ambulance to be able to track the position of the emergency caller via GPS, the caller’s mobile phone must be equipped with a GPS receiver and transmitter, for transmitting the positioning data – as e.g. the Secufone SOS mobile phone, or a mobile phone that has been upgraded with a navigation solution that provides these functions, as the Falk activepilot. The mobile phone owner must further have his phone registered at the LifeService of the Björn Steiger Foundation. So far, GPS tracking already works for the whole of Germany and introduction of the system into other countries, such as Austria or Switzerland, is also planned.

Modern technology helps save lives

Fecker speaks very positively of the new possibilities: “The advanced system has made work at the EMS easier and more efficient. Thanks to the latest equipment in our control centre, we can now also locate the people calling who can’t tell us where they are. The technology helps us to be even better at our most important task: saving lives.”