



Accela Public Safety™

Fire Prevention

An Accela
Civic Solution

The Importance of Public Safety

A community's preparedness in the event of a disaster or fire can have ripple impacts on its livability and economic resiliency. It can be the difference between manageable property damage and large scale devastation or loss of life. The importance of fire department involvement in the plan review, inspection and permitting process of all buildings can't be understated.

The Challenge with Fire Prevention

Despite the important role they play in protecting public safety, fire departments face challenges that can make it difficult to meet their goals. These challenges include:

- > Reduced resources in funding, training and staffing levels yet with a constant or increasing role in fire prevention education and outreach
- > Inspector workloads and scheduling can be difficult to manage for annual inspections of all commercial and some residential facilities in larger regions
- > Varying levels of complexity in facility types can result in a lack of standardized inspection processes
- > Plan review and permit processing lacks transparency for fire departments and property owners alike

Benefits

Protects Public Safety – Accela Public Safety allows fire departments to address their regulatory obligations while freeing up more time and resources to devote to fire prevention education and training, and responding to disasters and fires.

Tracks recurring activities – Fire inspectors are notified of upcoming license expiration dates and can be more proactive in planning their inspection schedule with ease.

Increases productivity – Accela Public Safety increases fire department efficiency in plan review, inspections and permit processing activities, enabling fire departments to do more with less. Staff can handle more requests and inspectors can process more plan reviews, do more inspections and issue more licenses and permits in a less time.

Generates more revenue – Processing more applications in a shorter amount of time increases the fee revenues coming into the fire department.

Improves ISO ratings – More inspections and permit approvals means that fire departments can improve their PPC/ISO ratings and achieve a higher level of protection for their community and department in the case of a fire.

Improves citizen satisfaction – Accela Public Safety makes it easier for business owners to comply with fire codes and regulations without experiencing the frustrations from outdated processes, improving satisfaction and promoting community growth.

Improves data sharing – Accela Public Safety helps fire departments easily share reports and data on inspection and permitting trends with other agencies and the public. Data can also be exported to letters, spreadsheets and graphics.



Accela Public Safety and Fire Prevention

Accela Public Safety is a cloud-based software solution that automates all aspects of the permitting, licensing and inspection process for fire departments. The solution moves all the functions online, removing paper, manual steps, and significantly streamlines the complexities of the plan review, inspection and permitting process so agencies can focus on fire prevention and public safety outreach.

Accela Public Safety saves time for citizens by moving traditional counter services online. Property owners can perform all the steps for application submittal from within a specialized web-based portal that allows them to input all information needed, including the applications, relevant documents, and other agency approvals from any location. Facility owners can also pay their fees online with a credit card or ACH transfer.

Accela Public Safety helps fire department staff automatically route and assign electronic case files with application details to the appropriate individuals or agencies for review with a few clicks of a button. There is no more handling of paper documents and plans, lost documents or files, or errors in data, and administrators get reporting which shows them how their processes are performing and if there are any backlogs or bottlenecks to address.

Accela Public Safety makes it easy for fire inspectors to perform onsite inspections from their mobile devices, allowing them to stay 100% in the field, saving time, reducing errors, and helping them to perform more strategic inspections in their work day.

Features



Workflow management system that automates the tasks and functions needed for application processing, plan review, inspections and license issuance. The system assigns tasks, tracks reviews, associates documents and information to tasks, and keeps processes running smoothly.



Online citizen portal providing a one-stop-shop to apply, verify status, pay fees and gather information, reducing in-person visits and phone calls, and improving the citizen experience.



Built-in reporting to give administrators and managers the information they need to manage department productivity, uncovering any bottlenecks or process congestion, and highlighting areas for process optimization.



Online payments system with credit card, ACH, and trust account capability to increase convenience for citizens and remove the manual payment processing work from fire department staff.



Inspections and permit processing in the cloud help avoid setting up hardware and software infrastructure, or loading and maintaining application software. Accela manages the entire system for department customers.



Integration to GIS to produce interactive maps and visualizations, making inspection routes, nearby building inspection histories and data easier to digest.



Electronic Document Review removing the need for paper in the permitting process. Fire department staff can upload, comment on and markup digital documents, and ensure they have the information needed to complete their inspections and process permits.



Full-featured mobile platform with role-based apps to allow fire inspectors to efficiently manage their routing, access all needed documents and information in the field, and get more work done.



Modern and intuitive user interface with HTML5 and responsive design provides a seamless experience for both agency staff and citizens on any device. Easy-to-use search options help locate data, and automated email alerts remind staff of upcoming renewal permits and inspections.



Platform-wide integration capabilities with APIs, SDKs, and open data, allowing developers to integrate with existing software solutions to meet the unique needs of any community.

About Accela

Accela provides market-leading SaaS solutions that empower state and local governments to build thriving communities, grow businesses and protect citizens. Powered by Microsoft Azure, Accela's open and flexible technology helps agencies address specific needs today, while ensuring they are prepared for any emerging or complex challenge in the future. Accela is headquartered in San Ramon, California, with additional offices around the world.

Learn More

Visit www.accela.com or call us at (888) 722-2352