

Tracing Offenders

Sprint helps Killeen Independent School District thwart bomb threats.

Walker Veal's phone wouldn't stop ringing. Three schools in the Killeen Independent School District in central Texas had received bomb threats. That meant the district's 28,000 students were at risk. And that drove school officials to dial Veal, the school district's chief of police.

"I had three schools on the phone and a principal standing in my doorway yelling, 'We need help! What are we going to do?'" Veal says. "A bomb threat is spooky; your adrenaline starts pumping; you get excited. When you have almost 30,000 children in your care, threatening calls aren't something you take lightly."

Fortunately, Veal, too, had someone he could call on. That's because he had Sprint's new call-tracing solution designed especially for schools.

On the Scene in 10 Minutes

Veal dialed Sprint's Corporate Security department. Security officials there used Sprint's new call-tracing solution for schools (see box) to isolate the call and pinpoint the calling party's phone number and address. Then Corporate Security professionals called local police with the information.

Police were at the caller's home within 10 minutes of the first call. The caller, a 16-year-old girl who had dropped out of high school, was dialing the fourth school when the officers arrived.

"The girl made the first call at 12:02 p.m., and we had police knocking on her door at 12:12 p.m.," Veal says. "And to tell you how much Sprint is on the ball, the phone the girl was using was connected just that morning. That's how good the system is."

Veal sees Sprint's call-tracing solution as a deterrent as well as a way to track down and punish offenders.

"We haven't broadcast the fact that we can trace these calls, but we don't want to keep it a secret either," Veal says. "We want people to know, 'If you threaten us, you're going to jail.'"

Taking Security Seriously

School districts like Killeen take bomb threats and other intimidating pranks seriously. So seriously, in fact, that the teen-aged caller arrested for threatening the Killeen school district was sentenced to five years in a juvenile prison.

“A bomb threat is a serious problem,” Veal says. “But when you’ve got something like Sprint’s call-tracing solution for schools in place, threatening calls are a whole lot easier to deal with.”

Schools Get Call-Tracing Solution

For Killeen and other school districts that are concerned about bomb threats and other intimidating phone calls, Sprint has developed a new solution for tracing calls designed specially for schools. The solution works like this:

- The school district provides a list of all the schools’ telephone numbers with Sprint Corporate Security. The point-of-contact and number of the local law enforcement agency is also provided.
- When a threatening call comes into one of the schools, school officials immediately dial *57 to trace it.
- The school notifies the law enforcement agency, which calls Sprint Corporate Security in Overland Park, Kansas.
- Sprint Corporate Security isolates the call, pinpoints the calling party’s number and physical location, and notifies the law enforcement agency.
- Law enforcement responds within minutes.

“I’d recommend the system to anyone: It’s so fast,” says Walker Veal, the school district’s chief of police. “It worked great for us. We were pleased beyond words.”

This service may not be available in all areas. Contact your Sprint representative about call-tracing options in your area.