



Application of an Electronic Freight Theft Management System (EFTMS) for Florida

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PAPER #: 07-1041

POSTER SESSION #: 653

DATE: Wednesday, January 24, 2007

TIME: 9:30am-12:00pm

LOCATION: Shoreham, Blue Room Foyer

TITLE: Freight Systems and Marine "Meet the Author" Session

SPONSORED BY: Marine; Freight Systems

OVERVIEW

A freight theft management system has recently been developed by the Center for Advanced Transportation Systems Simulation (CATSS). The system was designed to be a comprehensive online application for the reporting, documentation, and warehousing of intermodal freight theft and related occurrences. A hierarchical database structure is the foundation for data capture, storage, and retrieval. System deployment is intended to benefit conglomerate corporations, independent sole proprietor commercial vehicle operators, and law enforcement agencies. The online system can be used to assist law enforcement in prioritizing theft investigations or recovery operations or by significance level of the stolen cargo. It is envisioned that if deployed nationally, criminal investigation officers would have a universal freight theft data system with inter-jurisdictional application and versatility to assist in cross reference of available data through any available Internet connection and Web browser. The system has been structured to allow application of data mining techniques to the database. The system has simplicity and scalability without loss of performance and has built-in "alerts" to identify stolen commodities that pose possible threat to national homeland security. A system for Florida law enforcement has been designed and deployed. The new Web-based system replaced the previous paper based system that used a fax machine to distribute theft reports. The new system distributes reports and bulletins electronically via automated emails. This enhancement is projected to significantly reduce response time, provide greater accessibility to available data for officers, and increase the ability to provide more accurate theft recovery information.

Key words: Intermodal, freight, theft, security, database, data management



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