

## **CAMA Awards 2011**

**City of Candiac, QC**  
**2011 Willis Award for Innovation**  
**(Population under 20,000)**  
***Computerized Command Post***

In December 2010, the Candiac-Delson Fire Department launched a new computerized firefighter tracking system to use at fire scenes. The “Computerized Command Post,” developed by the department, replaces a manual system and has been deemed a success.

During fire calls, it is important to keep track of firefighters working at a fire scene. In the past, the department used a manual tracking system that involved magnets, markers, and paper. The commanding officer would note the firefighters’ names; keep track of work sectors, as well as crew communications and movement. This made it difficult to get an overall picture of the situation.

After one difficult call, Lt. Patrick Miron offered to find a solution to the problem. Working with the Fire Chief and department officers, a computerized tracking software system for firefighters was designed.

Now all firefighters carry a card with a quick reference (QR) code. On calls, a firefighter’s card is scanned using a barcode reader and a high-quality weather-resistant computer. The code carries the firefighter’s personal information, including blood type, allergies and other emergency contact info.

The system allows for automatic logging of events during the call, a printable report, the ability to review the call and provide information to insurance companies, improved on-site management, and a reminder system to check the building structure, firefighter air tank levels and ask for officer reports.

Since its implementation, fire call management has been more effective. Other fire departments have expressed interest in the system, which has also won the 2010 Commission de la santé et de la sécurité du travail du Québec (CSST) Innovation Award.